三国志 43

蜀の明暗

横山光輝

希望コミックス 129

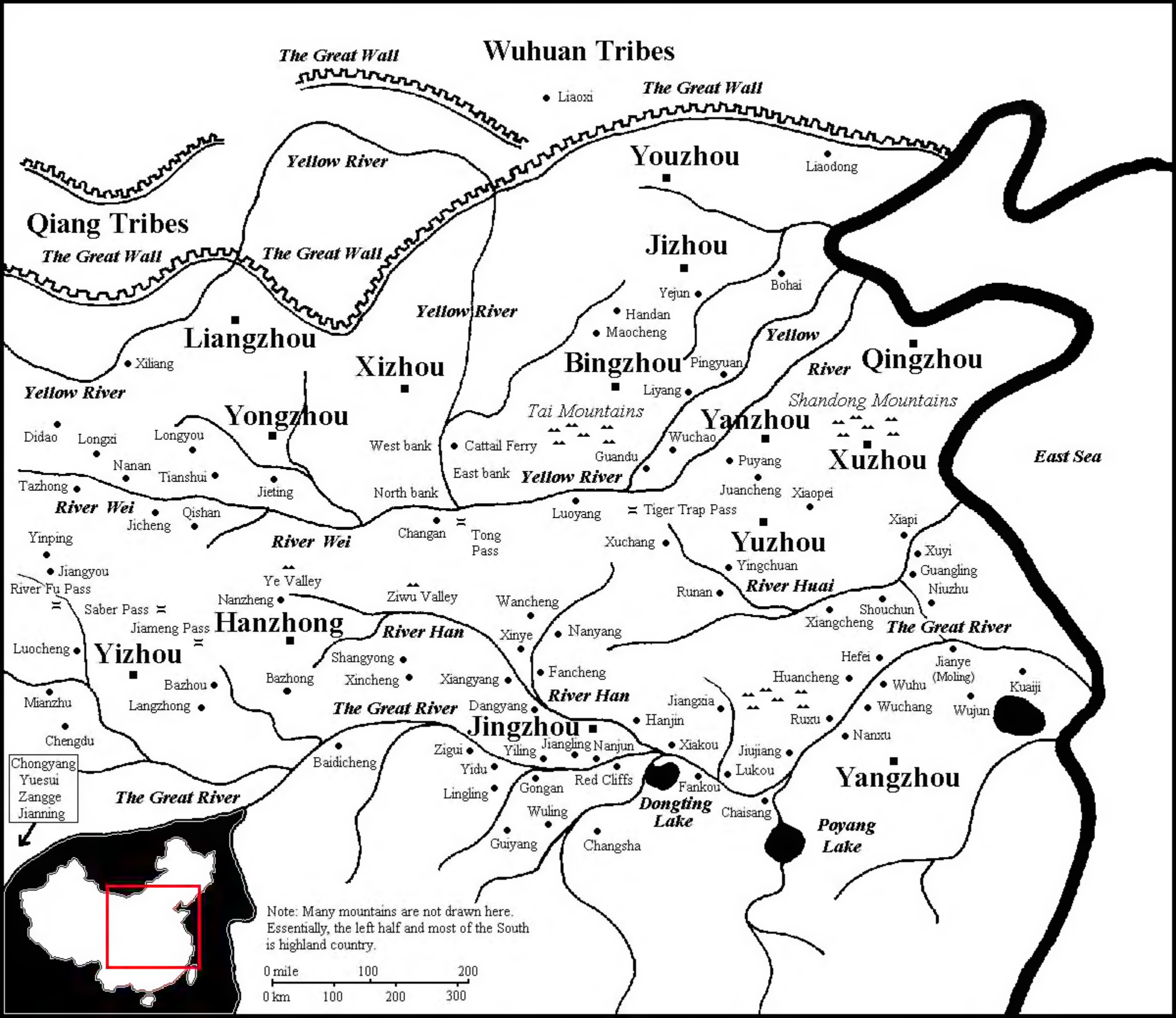
SANGOKUSHI

43

SHU'S RADIANCE AND GLOOM



YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI



CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. RISES TO BECOME KING OF WEI BUT DECLINES TO BECOME EMPEROR HIMSELF. PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS IN VOLUME 42.



CAO HONG:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.



CAO PI:
ELDEST SON OF CAO CAO. SUCCEEDS TO KING OF WEI AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND SOON DETHRONES THE LAST HAN EMPEROR TO BECOME AN EMPEROR OF A NEW DYNASTY.



CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.



CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.



CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.



CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.



CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.



DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.



DIAO CHAN:
A MAID TO WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.



DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.



DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.



EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.



FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.



GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.



GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19. SERVES ALONGSIDE HIS FATHER UNTIL THEIR DEATH IN VOLUME 42.



GUAN XING:
GUAN YU'S SECOND SON, WHO BECOMES A PROMINENT SHU OFFICER AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.



GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. AFTER THE FAILED SIEGE ON FANCHENG, HE IS EVENTUALLY CAUGHT BY WU FORCES AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.



GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.



HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.



HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT DEFECTS TO LIU BEI IN VOLUME 28. FALLS IN BATTLE AGAINST WU FORCES IN VOLUME 43.



HUA XIN:
WEI MINISTER WHO RISES TO BECOME CHANCELLOR OF WEI UNDER CAO PI'S REIGN.



JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.



JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.



LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.



LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.



LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. HE BECOMES AN EMPEROR AND ESTABLISHES A SUCCESOR-DYNASTY TO HAN IN VOLUME 43.



LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21. HE IS UNFORTUNATELY EXECUTED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 43 AFTER DENYING AID TO GUAN YU.



LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.



LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.



LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.



LU MENG:
FIRECE WU GENERAL, WHO AT LAST CONQUERS JINGZHOU FOR SUN QUAN, CAPTURING GUAN YU IN DOING SO. UNFORTUNATELY DIES TO A SUDDEN ILLNESS AFTER GUAN YU'S EXECUTION IN VOLUME 42, CAUSING SOME TO THINK HE WAS CURSED.



LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.



LU XUN:
TALENTED WU OFFICIAL WHO QUICKLY RISES TO FAVOUR AFTER SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING THE CONQUEST OF JINGZHOU.



MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.



MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.



MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.



MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.



MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG. HE LATER DEFECTS TO WEI IN VOLUME 43, AFTER REALIZING HE WOULD BE KILLED IN SHU TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH.



MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.



PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG. PERISHES IN THE BATTLE OF FANCHENG AGAINST GUAN YU IN VOLUME 41.



PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.



SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.



SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH-LANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.



SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.



SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)



SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.



TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.



TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.



THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.



WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).



WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.



WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.



XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.



XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.



XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).



XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.



XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.



YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.



YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.



YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.



YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.



ZHANG BAO:
ELDEST SON OF ZHANG FEI, WHO RISES TO PROMINENCE AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.



ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU. HIS TEMPER EVENTUALLY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM, WHEN HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN VOLUME 43.



ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.



ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.



ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).



ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.



ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.



ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.



ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.



ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."



ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE. COMMITS SUICIDE AFTER LEARNING GUAN YU WAS EXECUTED IN VOLUME 42.



ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.



ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

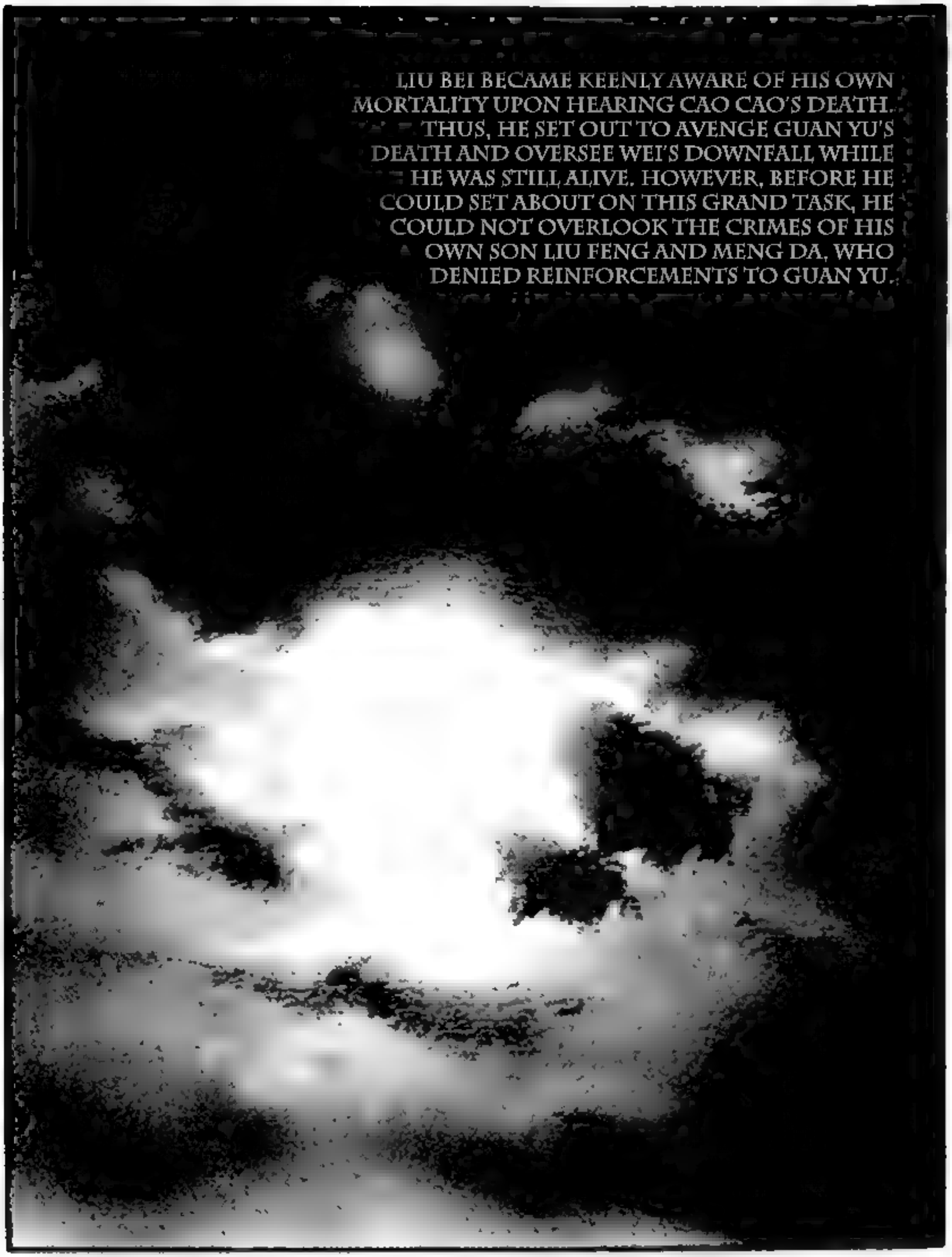
三国志

VOLUME 43
SHU'S RADIANCE AND GLOOM

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〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

BETRAYAL

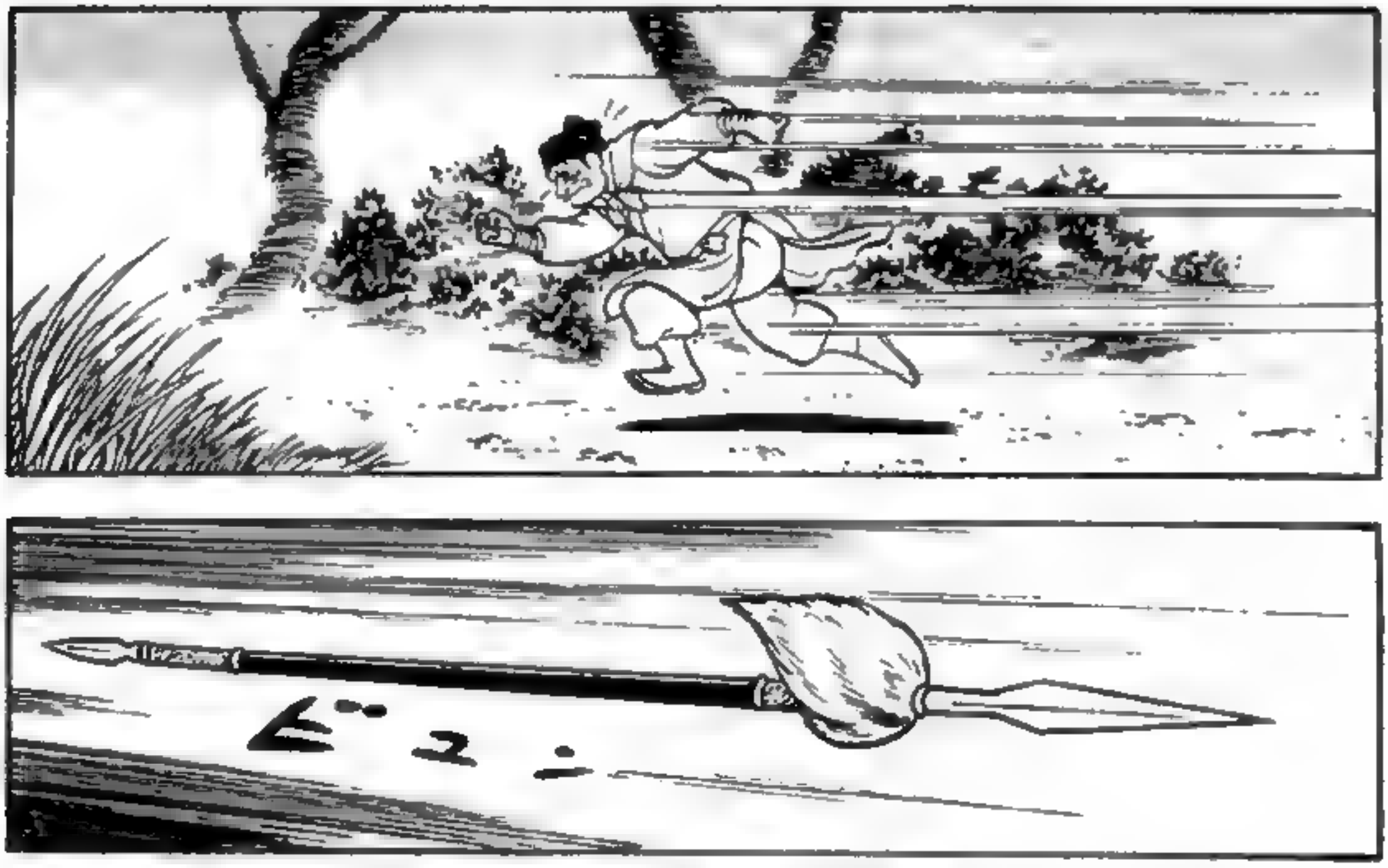

LIU BEI BECAME KEENLY AWARE OF HIS OWN MORTALITY UPON HEARING CAO CAO'S DEATH. THUS, HE SET OUT TO AVENGE GUAN YU'S DEATH AND OVERSEE WEI'S DOWNFALL WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE. HOWEVER, BEFORE HE COULD SET ABOUT ON THIS GRAND TASK, HE COULD NOT OVERLOOK THE CRIMES OF HIS OWN SON LIU FENG AND MENG DA, WHO DENIED REINFORCEMENTS TO GUAN YU.

HE'S DEFINITELY SUSPI-CIOUS!

HEY, HE STARTED RUNNING!

AGHHH!

HALT!




WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION HERE ABOUT?


GAHHH!

SO WE SOUGHT TO INTERROGATE HIM FOR HIS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR.

THIS MAN BOLTED FROM THE CITY GATES FOR SOME REASON,

GENERAL MA CHAO!

ACK!

CONDUCT A BODY SEARCH.

HM?

LET ME SEE.

A LETTER WAS FOUND ON HIM, SIR!

"MENG DA, YOUR LIFE IS IN GRAVE DANGER. THE RECENT PROMOTION GIVEN TO LIU FENG WAS A PLOY TO SEPARATE YOU TWO... THE MATTER OF BEARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH HAS COME TO HEATED DEBATE AT COURT AGAIN, AND I STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO BE WARY OF FURTHER PLOTS."

-PENG YANG-

COME THIS WAY!

TAKE THIS MAN TO JAIL FOR THE TIME BEING!

THIS IS SERIOUS... I MUST INVESTIGATE PENG YANG TO SEE IF THIS LETTER IS TRUE.

YES, HE SAID HE WAS IN THE AREA AND THOUGHT HE SHOULD AT LEAST DROP BY AND SAY HELLO.

GENERAL MA CHAO HAS COME TO VISIT?

YES, SIR.

IN THAT CASE, PREPARE THE WINE.

I HOPE YOU DO NOT MIND MY DROPPING BY WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA, YOU SEE.

WELCOME, WELCOME! IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE YOUR HOST, GENERAL.

OH, I DO NOT MIND! IN FACT, I WAS JUST IN THE MOOD TO WIND DOWN WITH SOME FINE WINE.

AH, SPLENDID.

NO WORRIES, AS LONG AS THERE IS WINE TO SHARE!

FORGIVE ME IF THE FOOD IS NOT QUITE TO YOUR LIKING.

LET US DRINK THE NIGHT AWAY!

ALLOW ME, SIR.

HAHAHA!

HAHA, YOU AREN'T BAD YOURSELF FOR A SCHOLAR!

YOU ARE AS TOUGH A SOLDIER AS YOU ARE A DRINKER, SIR.

AND YOUR TALENTS ARE WELL RECOGNIZED BY EVEN THE KING OF HANZHONG! THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S JUST ME, BUT IT SEEMS HIS TREATMENT TOWARDS YOU HAS COOLED SOMEWHAT AS OF LATE.

IT REALLY DOES SEEM THAT WAY, I ADMIT.

YOU THINK SO TOO, SIR!?

HMPH, PERHAPS THAT IS MERELY HIS LIMIT AS A CAPABLE RULER!

BEHIND HIS RECENT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE, I MEAN.

DO YOU THINK THERE'S SOME REASON?

OH?

IT MAY NOT BE LONG BEFORE HE LEADS SHU DOWNHILL. IN FACT, IF YOU WERE TO COOPERATE, WE COULD EVEN SNATCH THE STATE FROM UNDER-NEATH!

HA, NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN INTERESTING PLAN!

YES, IF MY FRIEND MENG DA ATTACKS FROM OUTSIDE WHILE YOU STAGE A COUP FROM INSIDE, THEN WE COULD OBTAIN THE ENTIRETY OF SHU IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!

YES, LET'S!

LET US CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION IN DETAIL SOME OTHER TIME, PENG YANG.

TO REPORT THE SPROUTS OF REBELLION, YOUR HIGHNESS.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SEE ME SO EARLY IN THE DAY, MA CHAO?

THIS HERE IS A LETTER THAT PENG YANG ATTEMPTED TO SEND TO MENG DA.

WHAT!

AND LAST NIGHT, I PERSONALLY INVESTIGATED THE MATTER BY COAXING THE SECRET OVER A DRINK WITH PENG YANG.

WHAT!?

HE WAS BOLD ENOUGH TO EVEN SUGGEST I JOIN HANDS WITH MENG DA TO ATTACK CHENGDU FROM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE TO TAKE OVER SHU.

YES, SIR!

ARREST PENG YANG AT ONCE!

AGHHH!




SILENCE, YOU TREASONOUS SCUM!
W-WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?


W-WHA!
ASK THAT IN FRONT OF THE KING!
TREASONOUS? WHAT TREASON DO YOU SPEAK OF!?



OH REALLY?

YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT HAS DONE NOTHING THAT WARRANTS THIS SUDDEN ARREST AND CHARGES FOR TREASON.

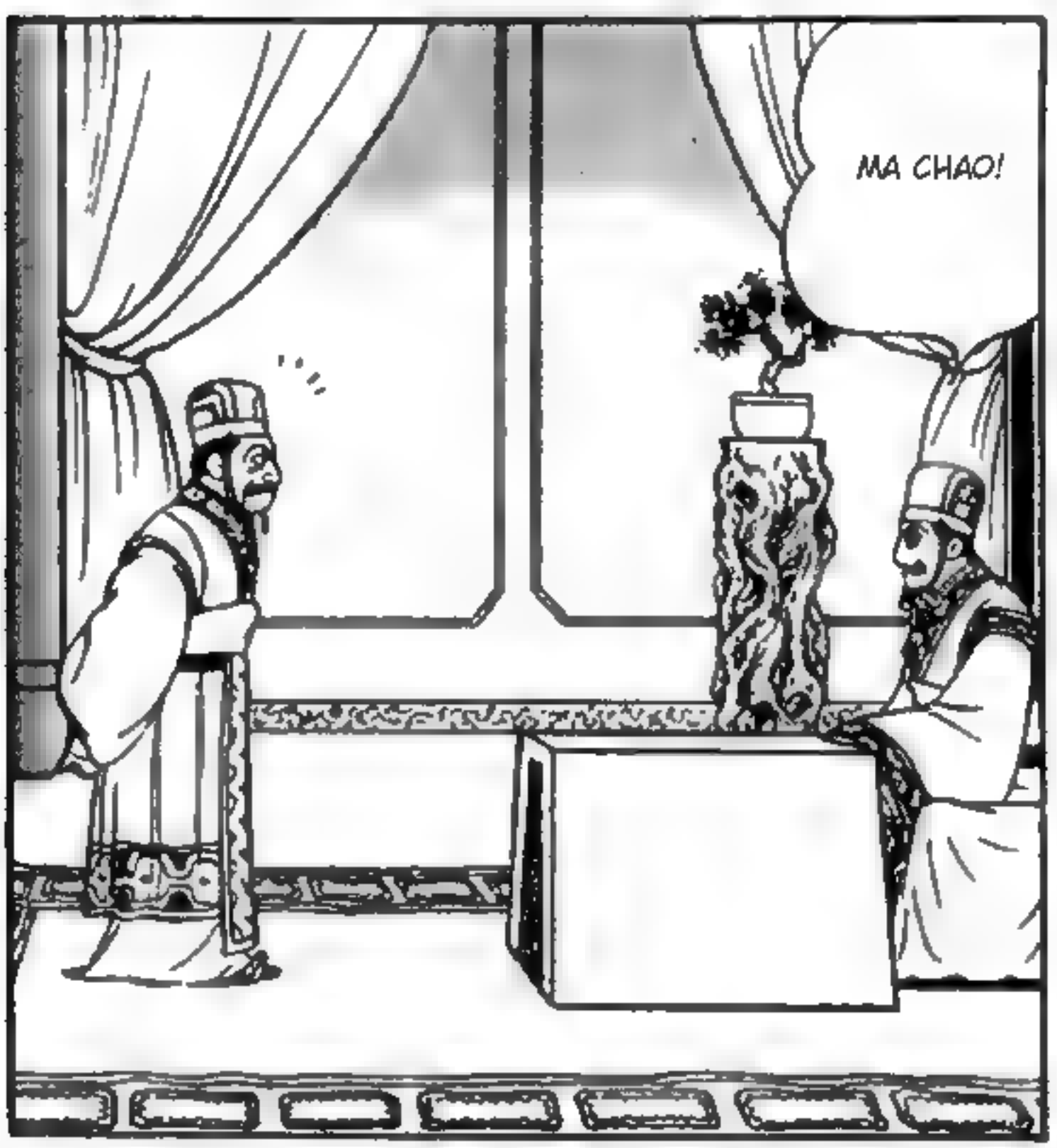
SO YOU WOULD NEVER THINK OF PLOTTING WITH MENG DA TO SEIZE CHENGDU?


ABSURD, YOU SAY?


BEING GIFTED WITH SOUND JUDGMENT, YOUR HIGHNESS WOULD SURELY NEVER FALL FOR SUCH RUMOURS, CORRECT?
HA... HAHA... WHERE DID YOUR HIGHNESS EVEN HEAR OF SUCH AN ABSURD CLAIM?


AH!


THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?


MA CHAO!


THIS WAS FOUND ON ONE OF YOUR SERVANTS.



T-THEN... YOU VISITED ME LAST NIGHT TO SECRETLY INVESTIGATE ME...!?

PENG YANG, I'VE ALREADY REPORTED EVERYTHING YOU SAID TO ME LAST NIGHT TO HIS HIGHNESS.

YES?

NGHH... HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND!?

WILL YOU STILL PLEAD IGNORANCE AFTER ALL THIS?


SHANGYONG


WHAT WERE THE CHARGES?


HIGH TREASON, SIR.


YES, SIR.
PENG YANG WAS EXECUTED!?

AS HE WAS YOUR CLOSE FRIEND, I ADVISE SIR TO STAY ON GUARD.

TREASON?

WHAT!? DO PEOPLE THINK THAT... THAT SOMEONE WAS ME!?

ACCORDING TO RUMOURS, PENG YANG HAD ANOTHER CO-CONSPIRATOR IN HIS PLOT...

TRUE...

NOT NECESSARILY, BUT YOUR STANDING IS NOT WELL AMONG OTHER OFFICERS AFTER GENERAL GUAN YU'S DEATH.


PLEASE TAKE CARE, S.R.


THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME.

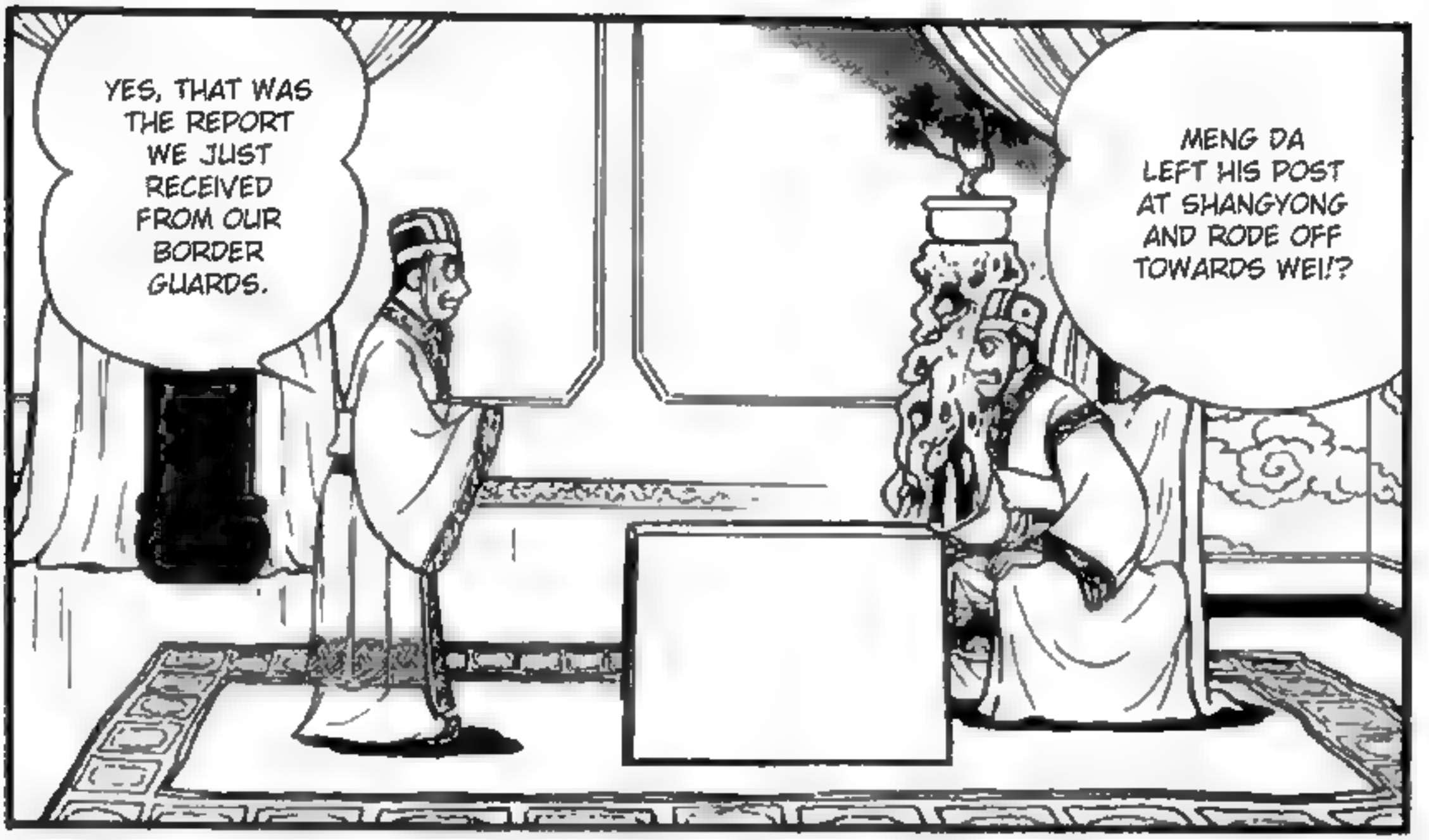

IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THE SPARKS OF FLAME WHICH BURNED PENG YANG JUMP TO ENSNARE ME...
PENG YANG EXECUTED, HMM... SINCE I DID DENY REINFORCEMENTS TO GUAN YU, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT GUAN YU'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES, INCLUDING HIS HIGHNESS, WOULD VIEW ME WITH SUSPICION.


VERY WEL....


AND EVEN IF IT WEREN'T SO, I CAN SAFELY ASSUME MY CAREER IN OFFICE IS EFFECTIVELY ROADBLOCKED SINCE GUAN YU'S DEATH.

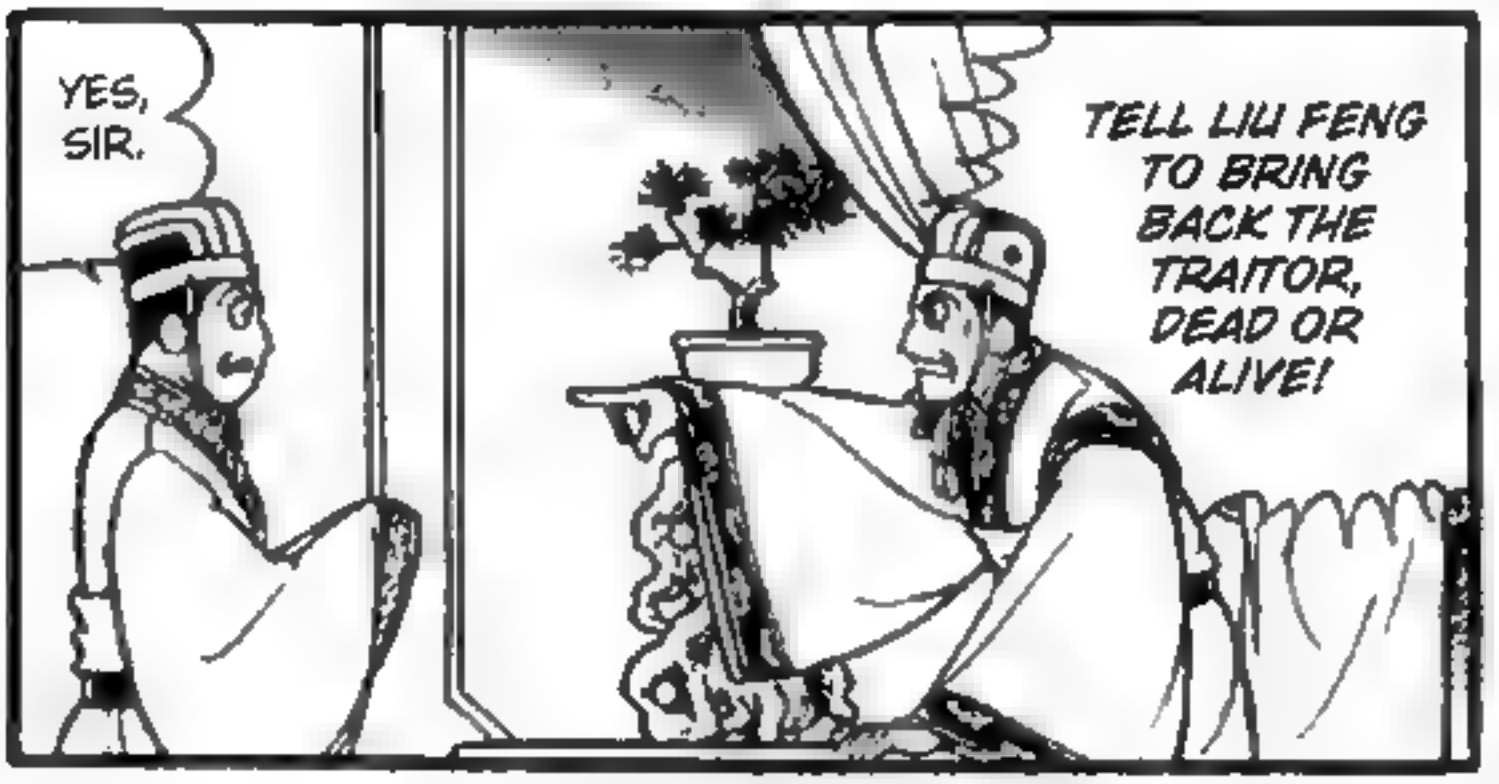

THAT NIGHT MENG DA SECRETLY LEFT SHANGYONG WITH ONLY A A FEW PERSONAL BODYGUARDS

DEFEAT

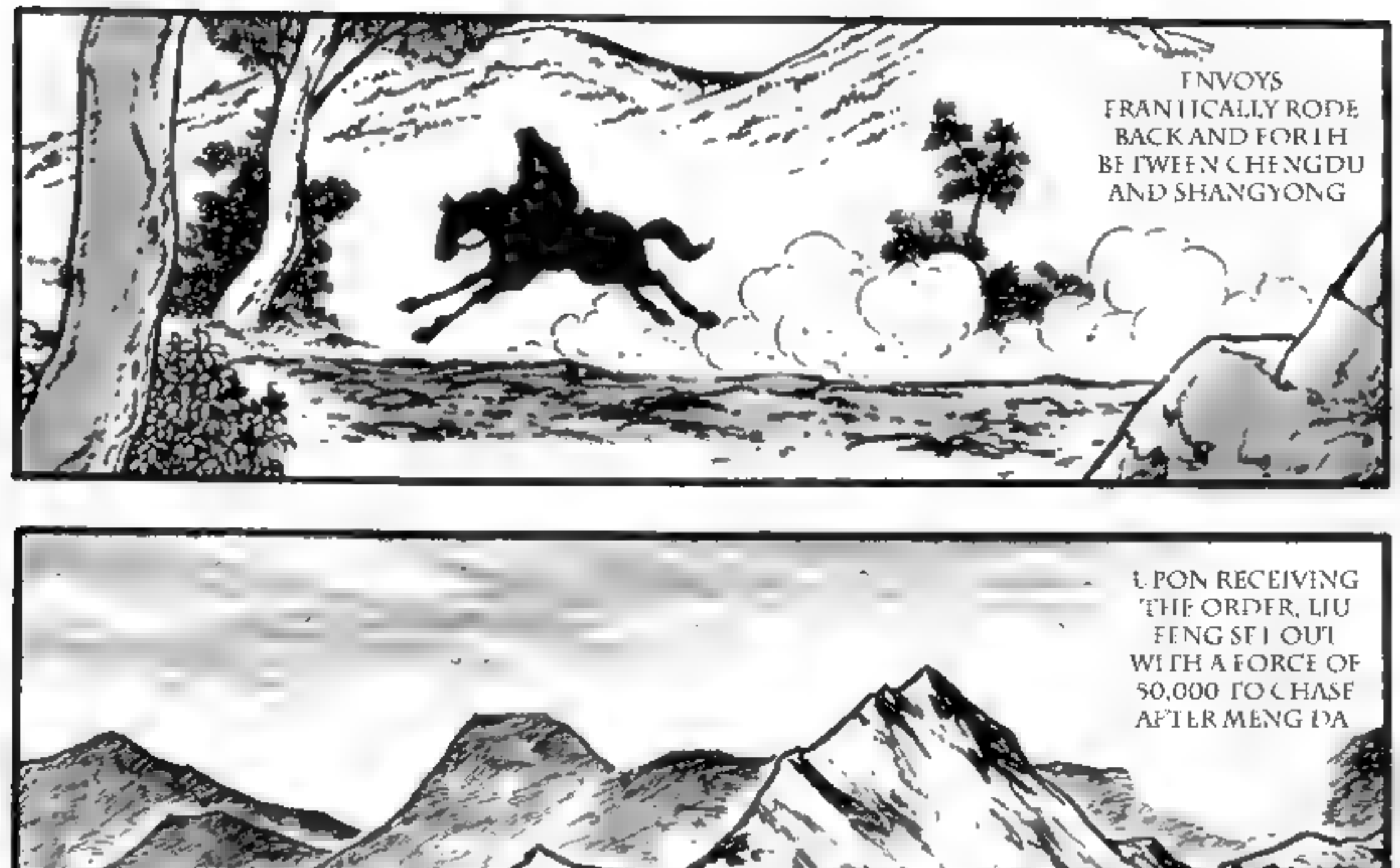

YES, THAT WAS THE REPORT WE JUST RECEIVED FROM OUR BORDER GUARDS.
MENG DA LEFT HIS POST AT SHANGYONG AND RODE OFF TOWARDS WEI!?

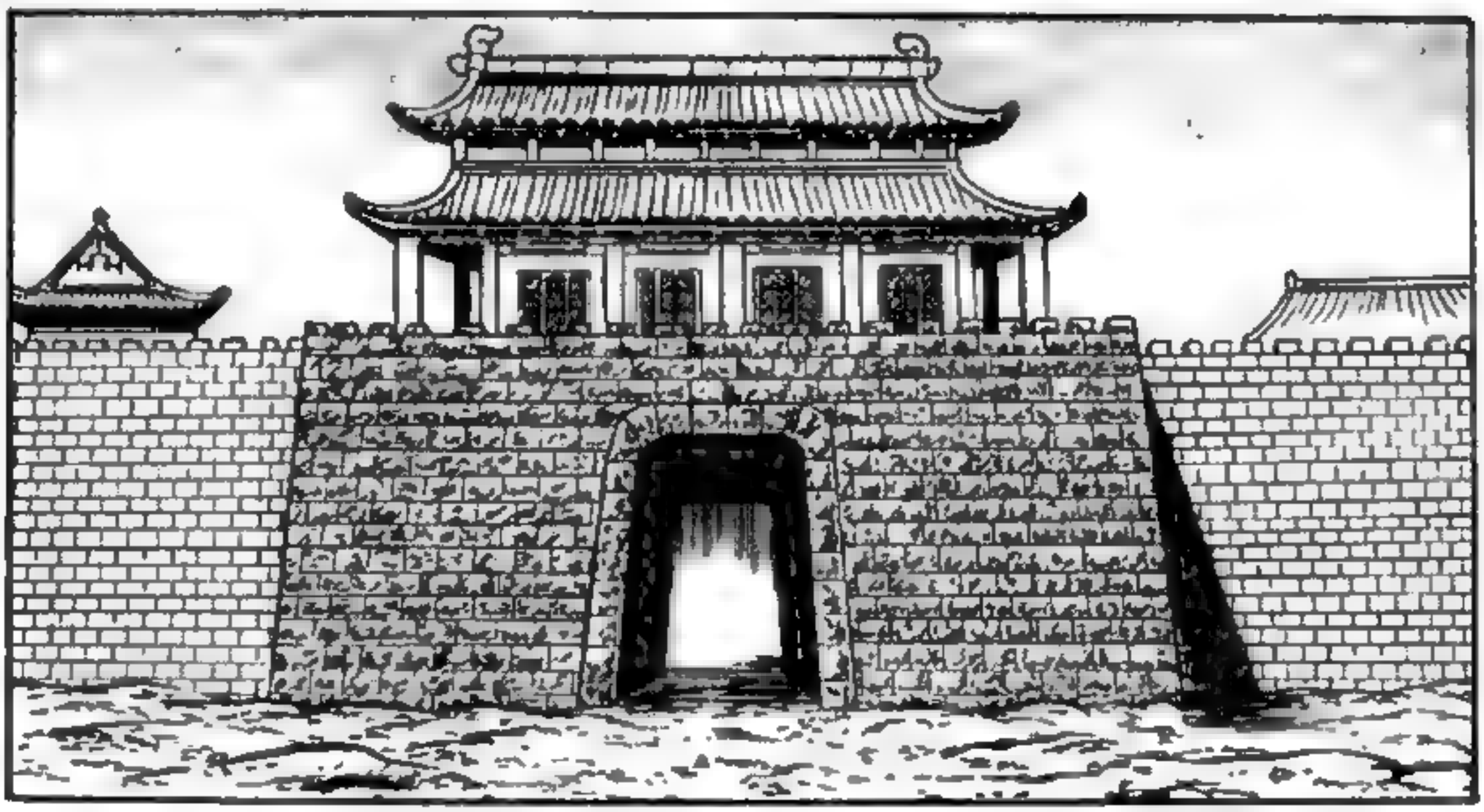

HE REPORTS THAT HE THOUGHT MENG DA WAS GOING OUT HUNTING.

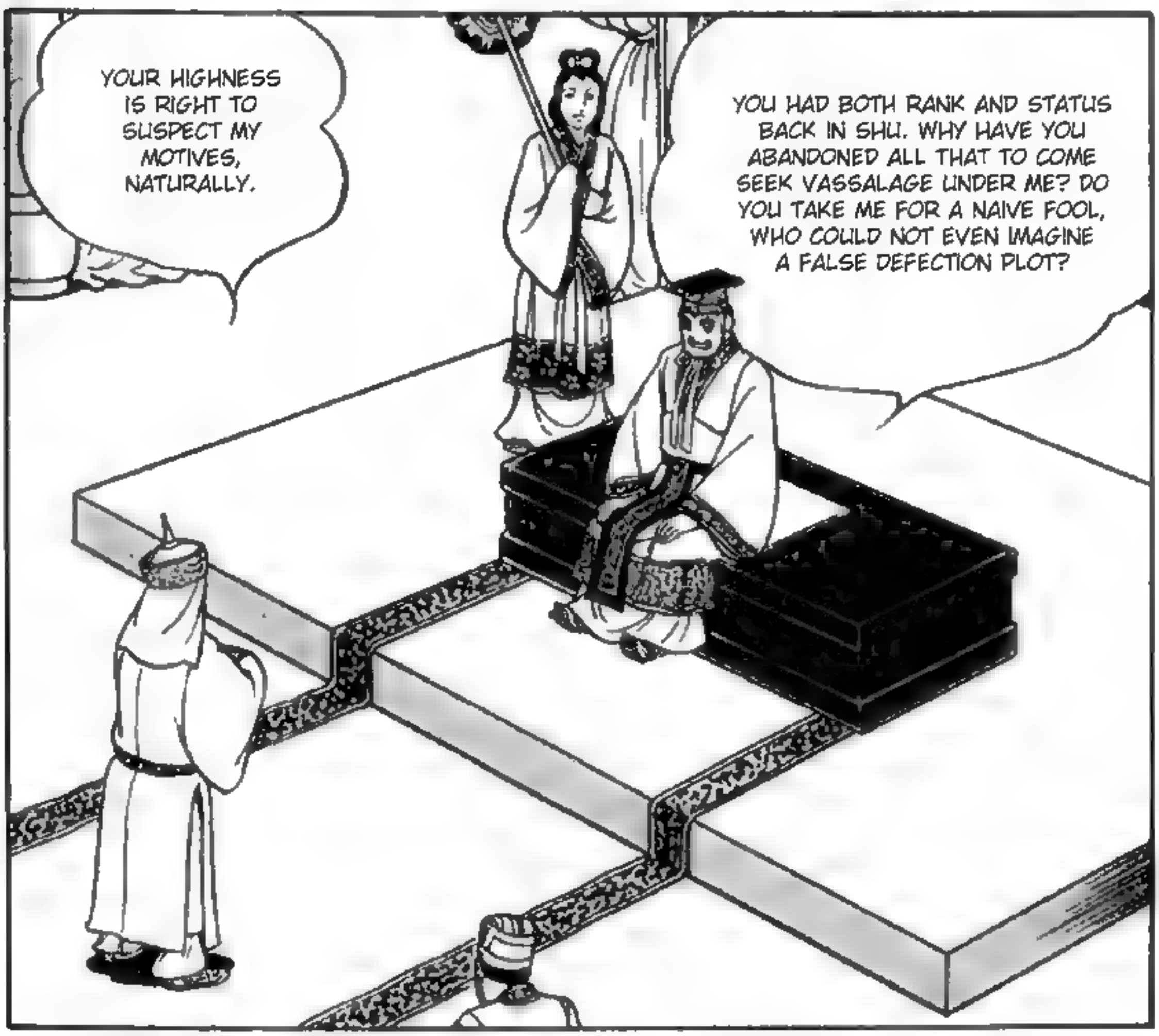

AND WHAT WAS LIU FENG DOING DURING ALL THIS!?


YES, SIR.
TELL LIU FENG TO BRING BACK THE TRAITOR, DEAD OR ALIVE!


NGHH...


ENVOYS FRANTICALLY RODE BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CHENGDU AND SHANGYONG
UPON RECEIVING THE ORDER, LIU FENG SET OUT WITH A FORCE OF 50,000 TO CHASE AFTER MENG DA
劉封
劉封




YOUR HIGHNESS IS RIGHT TO SUSPECT MY MOTIVES, NATURALLY.
YOU HAD BOTH RANK AND STATUS BACK IN SHU. WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ALL THAT TO COME SEEK VASSALAGE UNDER ME? DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A NAIVE FOOL, WHO COULD NOT EVEN IMAGINE A FALSE DEFECTION PLOT?

EXECUTE YOU? WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING?

MY CIRCUMSTANCES IN SHU WERE DIRE, AS THE KING OF HANZHONG SOUGHT TO EXECUTE ME.

HMM, THAT CERTAINLY IS A PLAUSIBLE STORY.

I HAD REFUSED TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS TO GUAN YU DURING HIS JINGZHOU CAMPAIGN, AND AFTER HIS DEFEAT AND EXECUTION, THE KING OF HANZHONG FELT THAT I SHOULD TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS DEATH. FEARING THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL I WAS ARRESTED AND EXECUTED, I FLED TO YOUR COURT.

YOUR HIGHNESS!

STILL, YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT ALONE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO WIN MY TRUST.

LIU FENG OF SHU HAS CROSSED OUR BORDERS AND IS RAZING THE LANDS AROUND XIANGYANG.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

THE REPORT SAYS 50,000!

WHAT!? HOW LARGE IS HIS ARMY!?

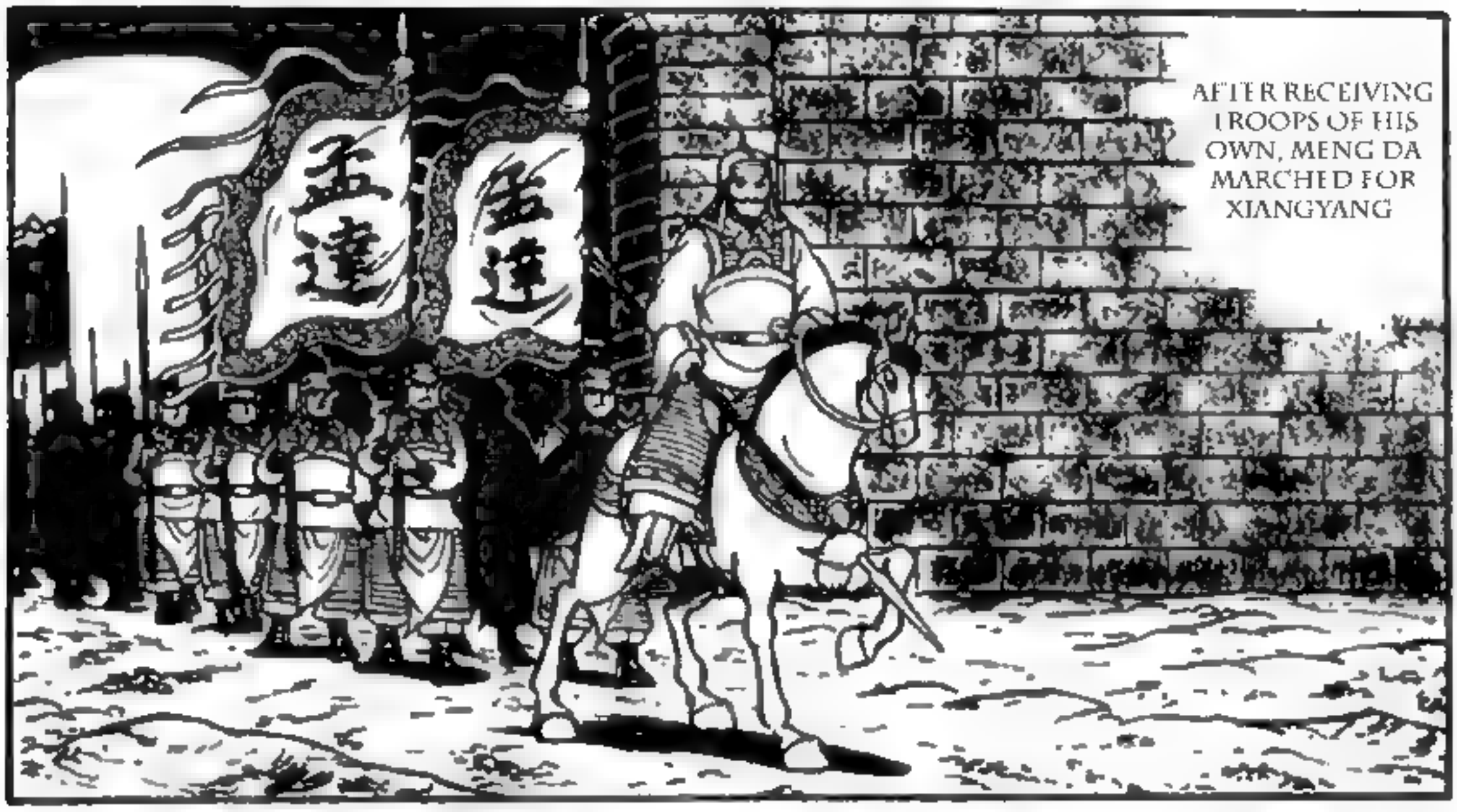
HMM... XIAOHOU SHANG AND XU HUANG ARE DEFENDING XIANG-YANG SO THERE'S NO REAL NEED TO WORRY, BUT...

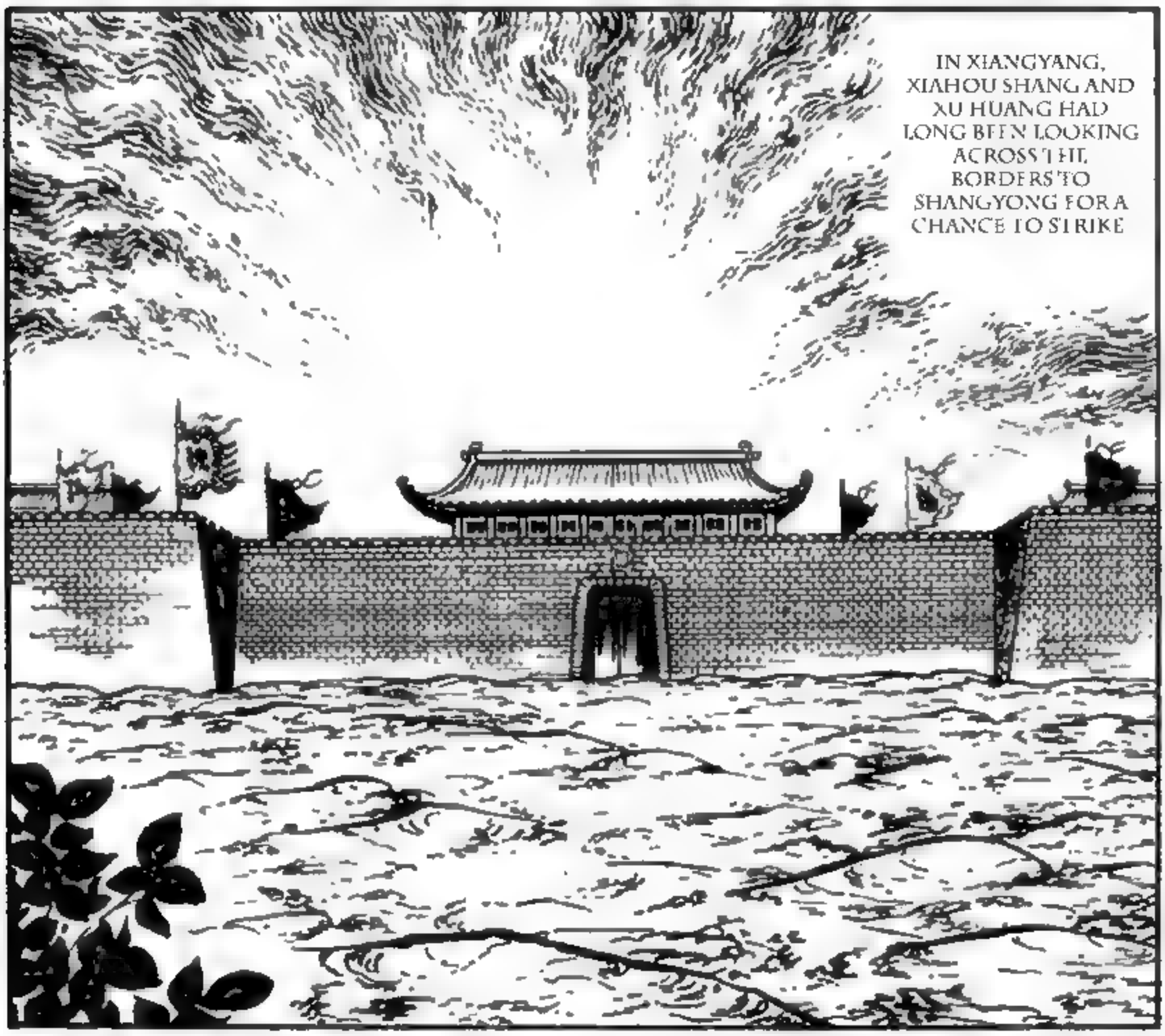
HEAD OVER TO XIANGYANG. IF YOU CAN BRING ME LIU FENG'S HEAD, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR SERVICE.

THIS WILL BE A GOOD CHANCE TO PROVE YOUR LOYALTY, MENG DA.

GOOD.

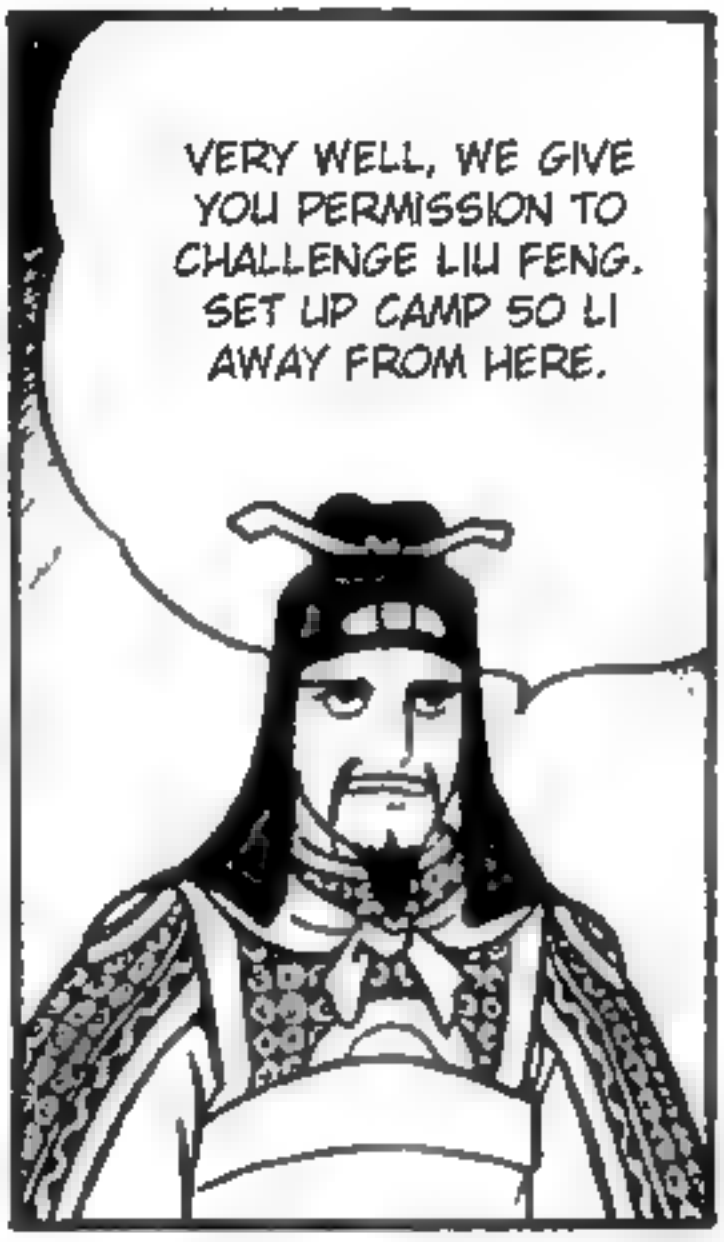
THEN I SHALL HEAD TO XIANGYANG AT ONCE, SIR.

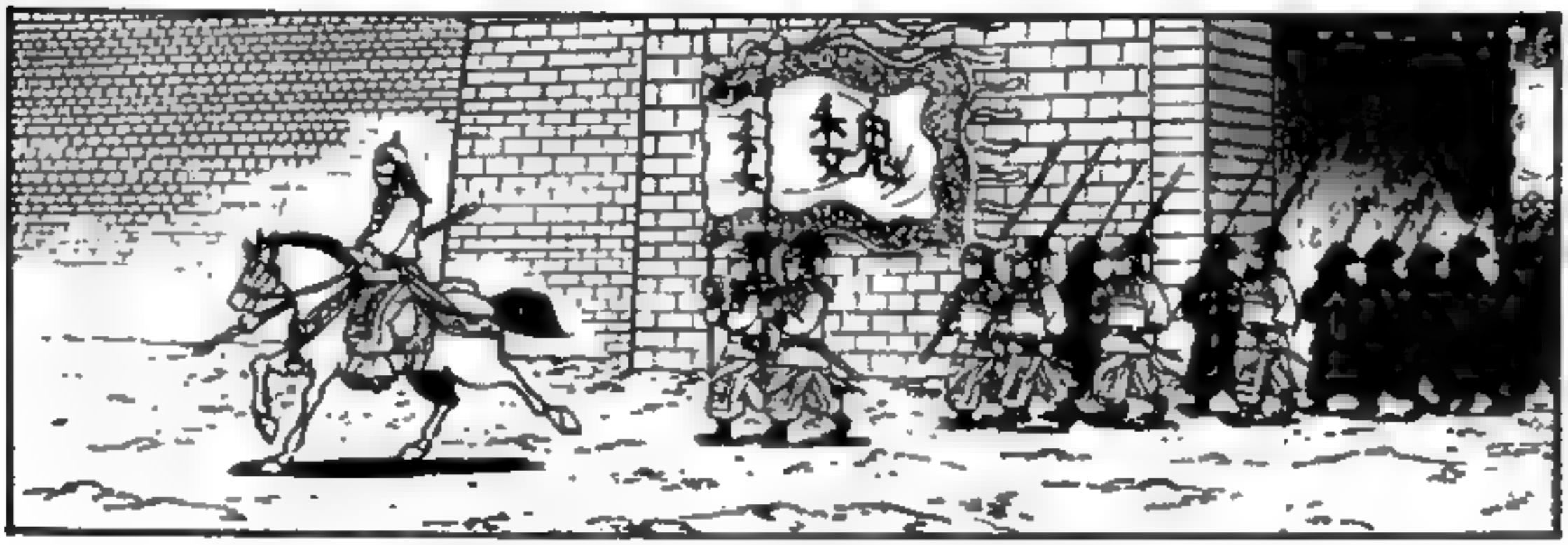

孟達
孟達
AFTER RECEIVING TROOPS OF HIS OWN, MENG DA MARCHED FOR XIANGYANG


IN XIANGYANG, XIAHOU SHANG AND XU HUANG HAD LONG BEEN LOOKING ACROSS THE BORDERS TO SHANGYONG FOR A CHANCE TO STRIKE


YES, THIS IS CERTAINLY HIS HIGHNESS' WRITING.


YES.
THANK YOU.


VERY WELL, WE GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO CHALLENGE LIU FENG. SET UP CAMP 50 LI AWAY FROM HERE.



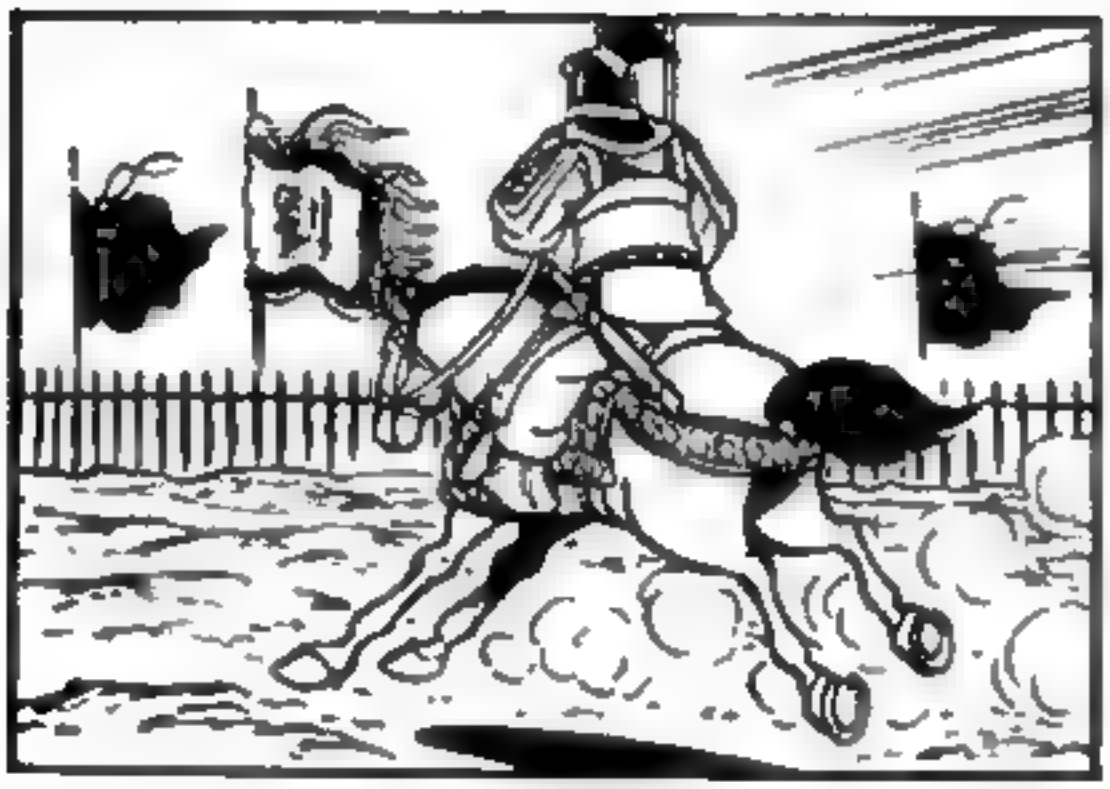
DELIVER THIS LETTER TO HIM THEN.

AHEAD IS LIU FENG'S CAMPS, SIR.

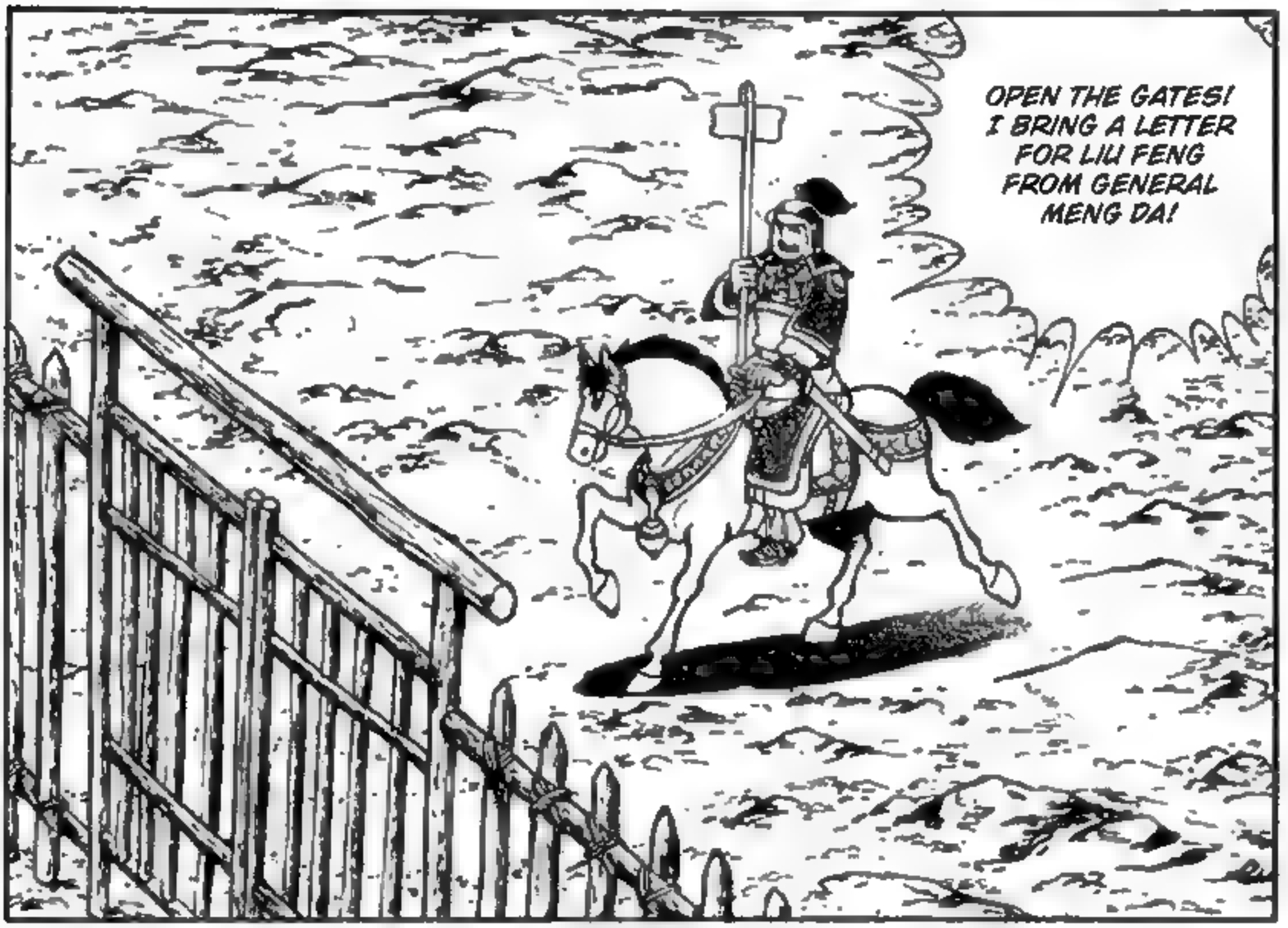
EVEN HE SHOULD ALREADY BE AWARE OF HIS OWN PRECARIOUS STANDING IN SHU.

I WILL PERSUADE HIM TO SURRENDER WITHOUT A FIGHT.

A LETTER?




I SEE, SIR.


OPEN THE GATES! I BRING A LETTER FOR LIU FENG FROM GENERAL MENG DA!




VERY WELL, ENTER.

WAIT HERE.

GIVE THIS TO YOUR GENERAL.

SIR, MENG DA SENDS A MESSAGE.

THIS IS HIS LETTER.

"PARDON MY FRANKNESS, BUT YOU ARE ONLY AN ADOPTED SON. THE DUKE OF LIJO PRESENTED YOU TO THE KING OF HANZHONG, BACK WHEN HE HAD NO SUITABLE HEIR. HOWEVER, HE NOW HAS LIU SHAN TO SUCCEED HIM, WHILE YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A THIRD WHEEL. ONLY DARK CLOUDS LOOM OVER YOUR FUTURE AT SHU. AS YOUR FRIEND, I PLEAD YOU TO SEE REASON AND DEFECT TO WEI WITH ME."

"LIU FENG, I DEFECTED TO WEI FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THE KING OF HANZHONG'S HOSTILITY TOWARDS US. I PRESUME YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT HE AND MANY OTHERS DEMAND WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUAN YU'S DEATH WITH OUR HEADS."

MENG DA...!

ADOPTED SON, I MAY BE, BUT A MAN I ONCE CALLED FATHER WILL ALWAYS BE MY FATHER! HOW DARE YOU THINK I WOULD BETRAY HIM FOR PERSONAL GAINS!

YES, SIR.

THOUGH I ALWAYS CONSIDERED HIM MY FRIEND, I CANNOT FORGIVE HIM FOR THINKING ME TO BE A SCOUNDREL SO UNSCRUPULOUS AS TO BETRAY HIS OWN FATHER! EXECUTE HIS MESSENGER TO CONVEY MY WRATH!

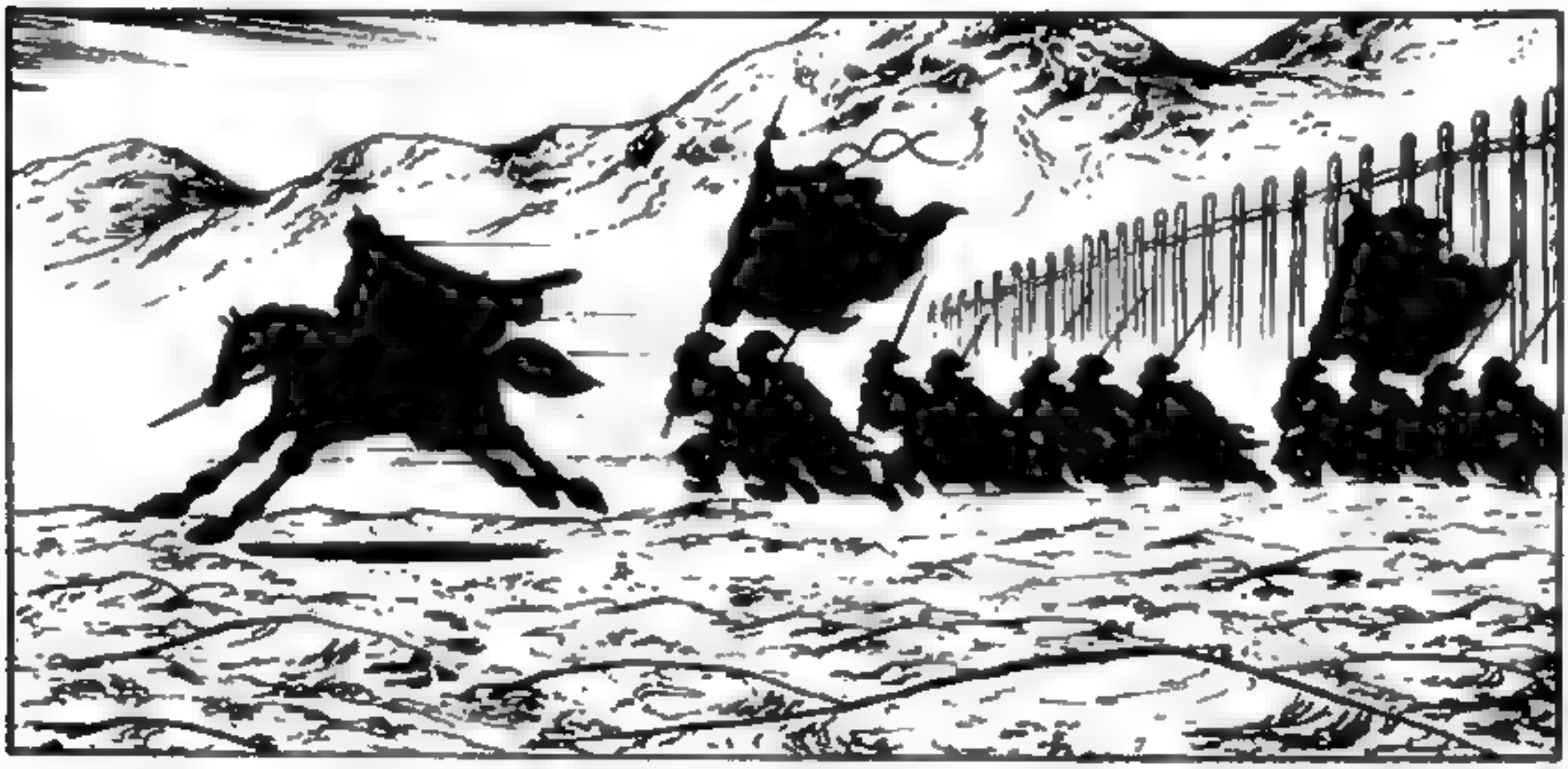
YES?

YOU THERE.




THIS IS LIU FENG'S REPLY!


LET US GO PUNISH THE TRAITOR!




LIU FENG'S FORCE IS COMING OUT TO ATTACK, SIR.


ATTACK!

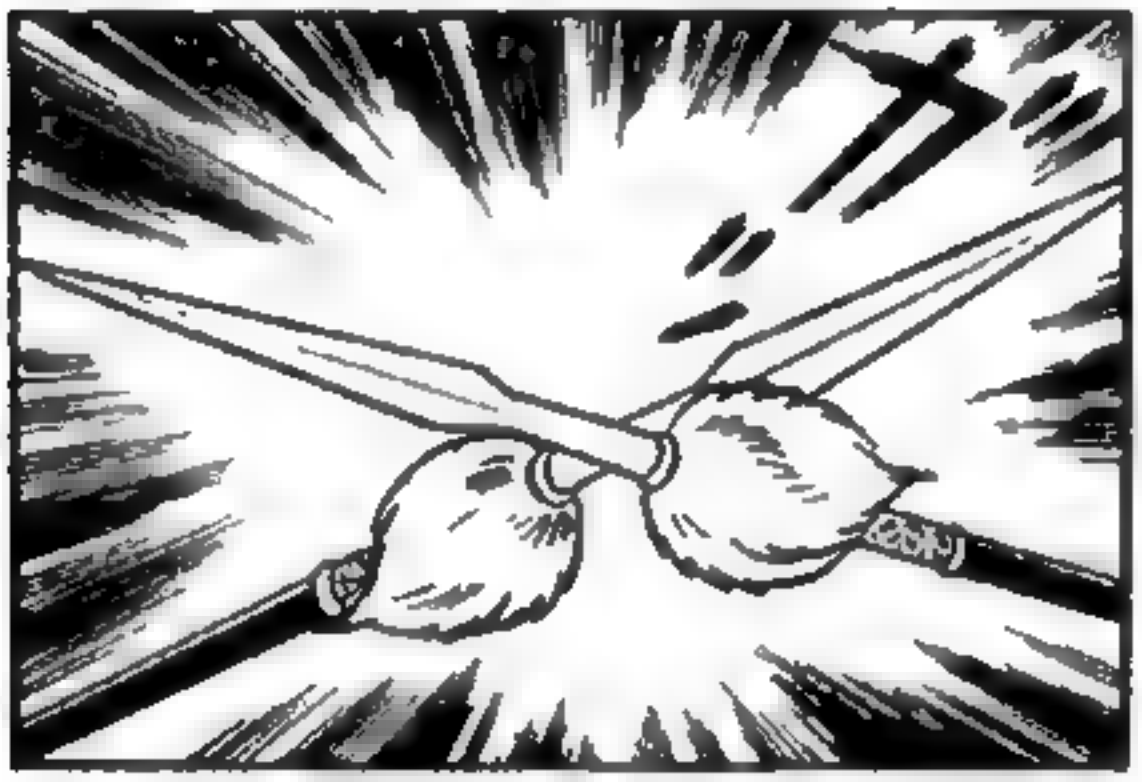

YOU FOOL! WHY DO YOU WILLINGLY TURN A BLIND EYE AT YOUR OWN FATE?

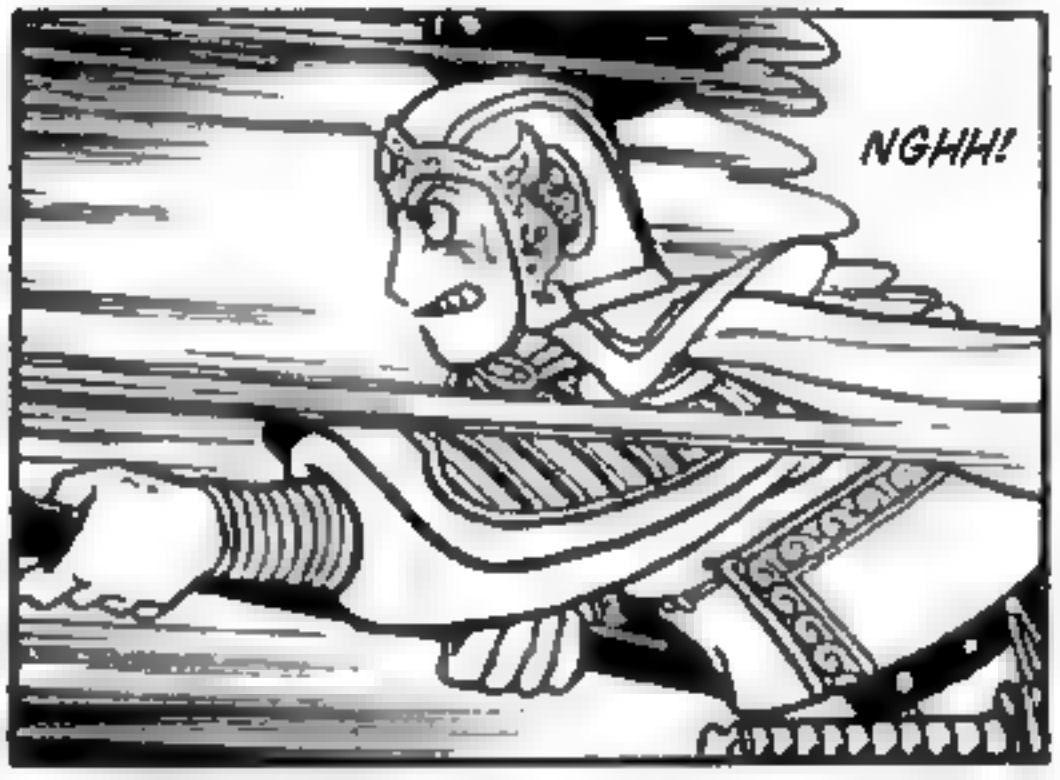



I AM HERE, LIU FENG!


MENG DA! SHOW YOURSELF!


YOU IGNORAMUS! WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY OPEN YOUR EYES TO YOUR SITUATION!
HOW DARE YOU BETRAY US! I SHALL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT YOUR HEAD TODAY!




NGHH!

YOU DARE RUN AWAY!?

GIVE CHASE!

HALT, YOU COWARD!

AGHHH!

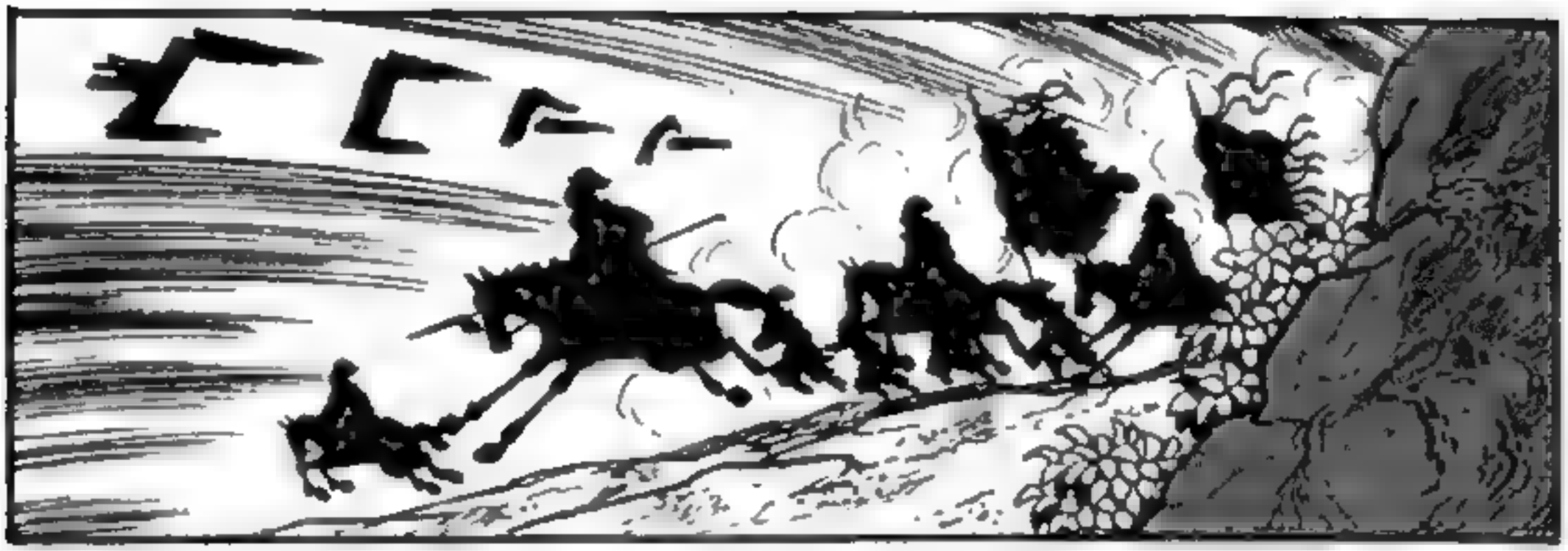





GOOD.
LIU FENG HAS BEEN ENTICED TO CHARGING HERE, SIR.
徐




GIVE THE ORDER TO ATTACK!

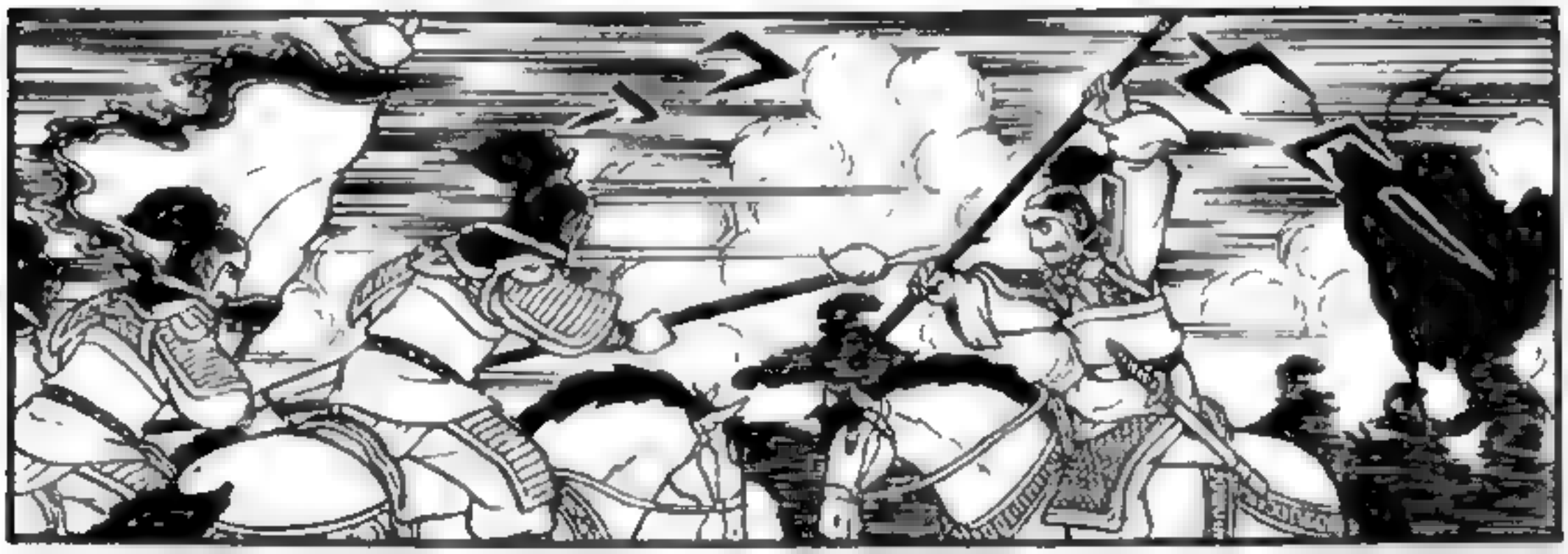



徐晃
魏


AH!


DO NOT PANIC AND MEET THEM HEAD ON!


THAT SNEAK WAS HIDING AN AMBUSH!?
IT'S XU HUANG'S BANNER, SIR!



AH!

SIR! IT'S XIAHOU SHANG'S FORCES!

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SPLIT OUR FORCES IN TWO TO FACE THEM!






LIU FENG HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TRAPPED BETWEEN XU HUANG AND XIAHOU SHANG'S FORCES, SIR.


STEADY, MY HORSE.


SUCH A SIMPLETON.

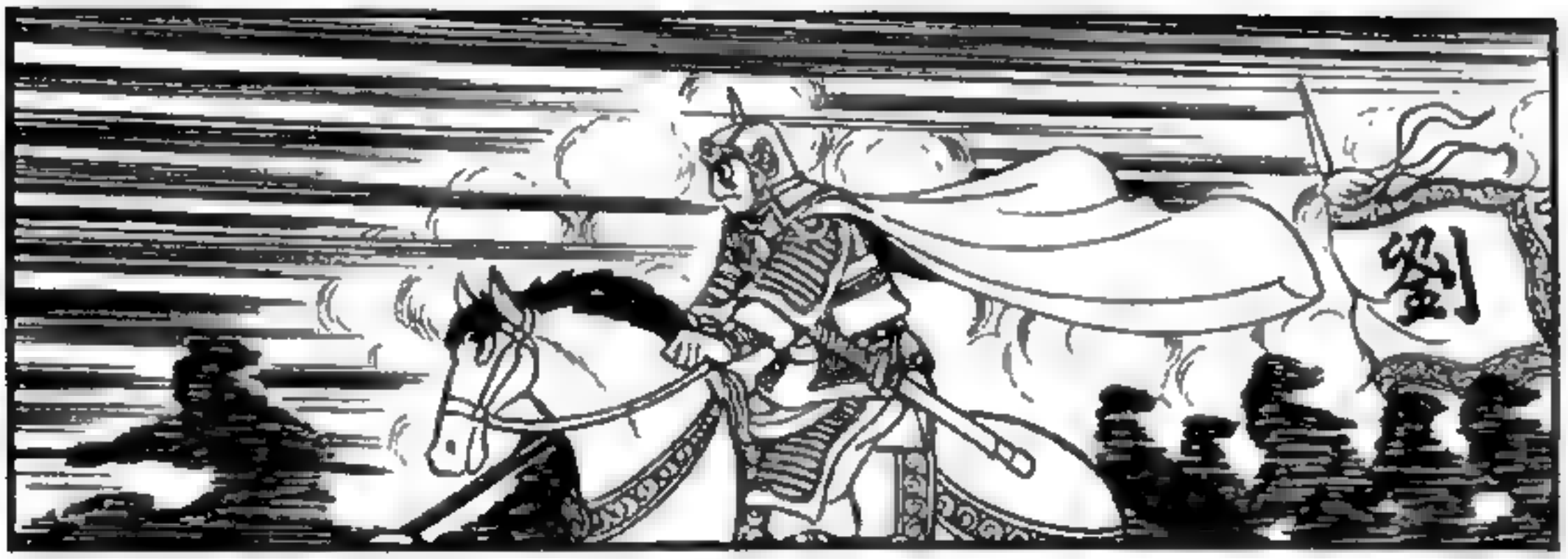

LET US TURN AROUND AND DELIVER THE FINISHING BLOW TO LIU FENG.

WE CANNOT HOLD OFF AN ASSALLT FROM THREE DIRECTIONS! WE MUST RETREAT!

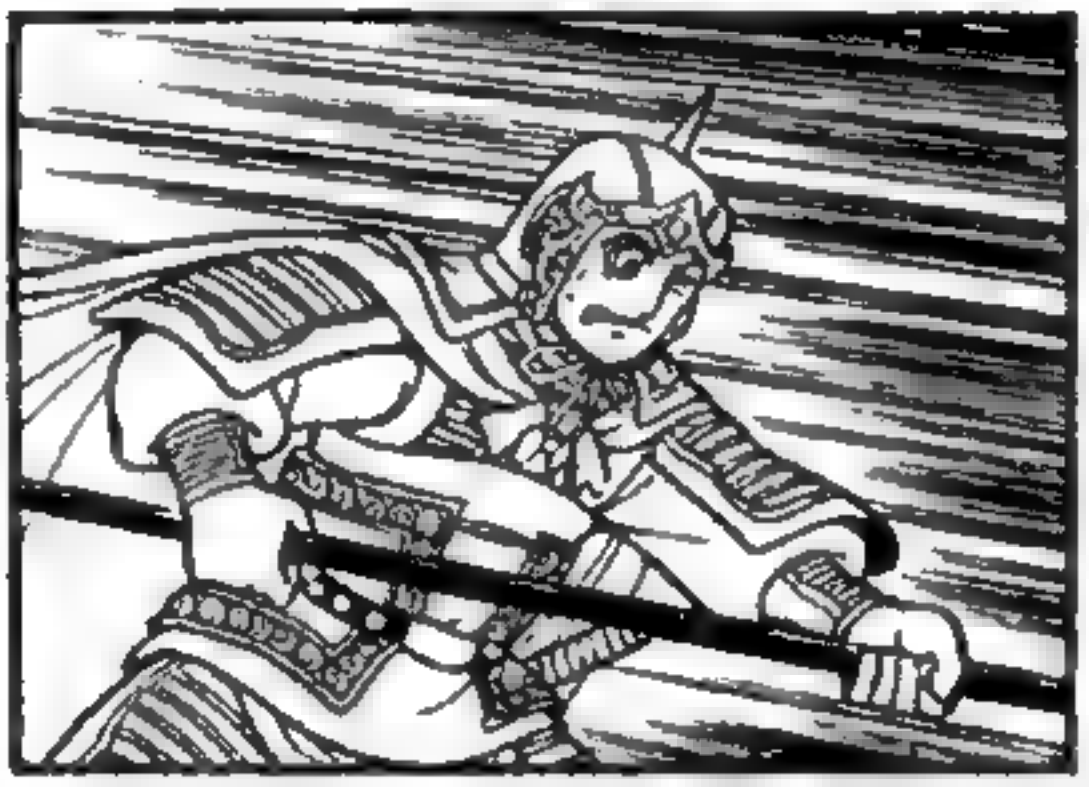
AGHH! MENG DA'S FORCES HAVE COME BACK TO ATTACK US!

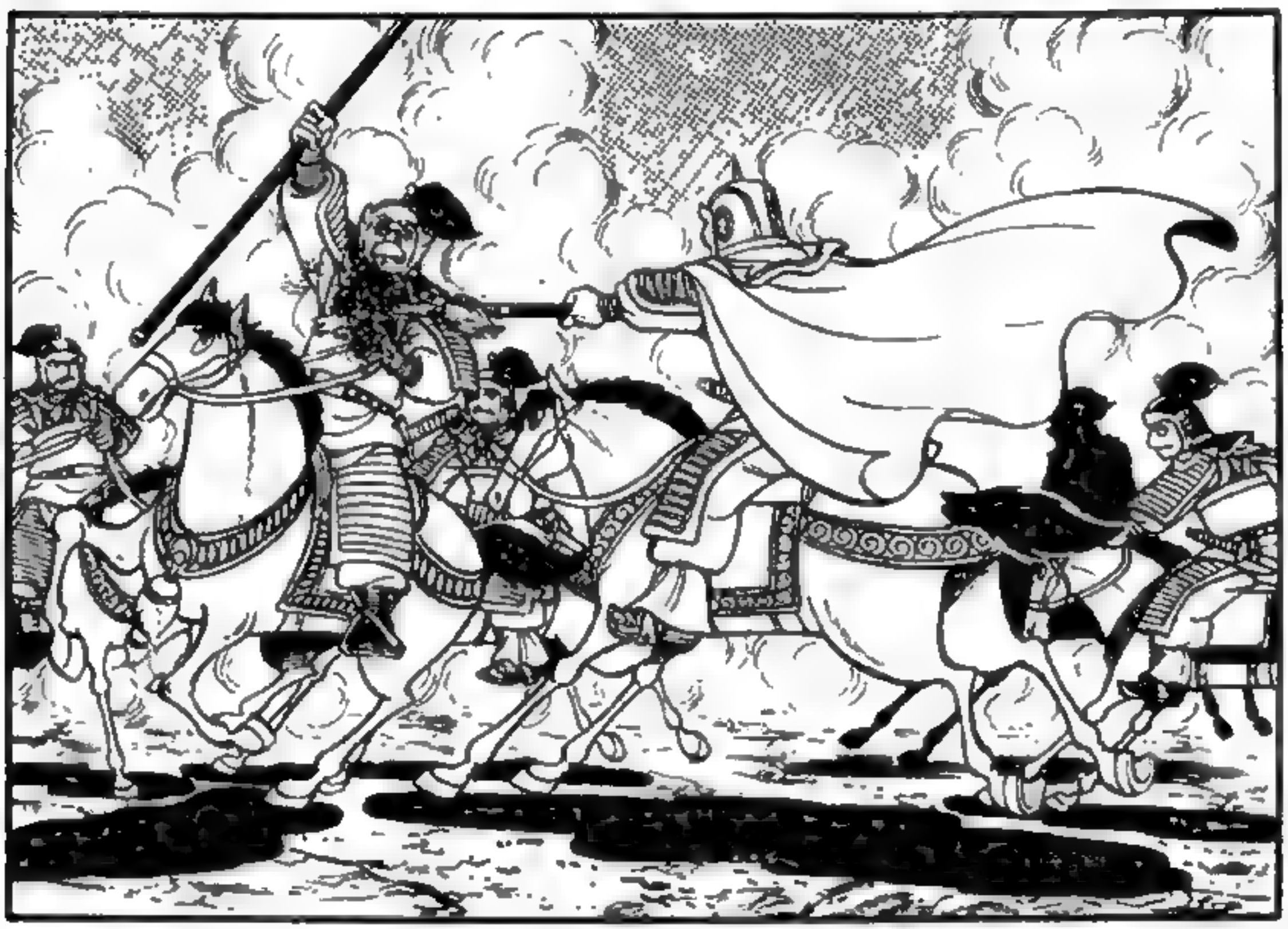
CONCENTRATE OUR REMAINING MEN ON ONE SIDE TO ATTEMPT A FORCEFUL BREAK-THROUGH!

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE...


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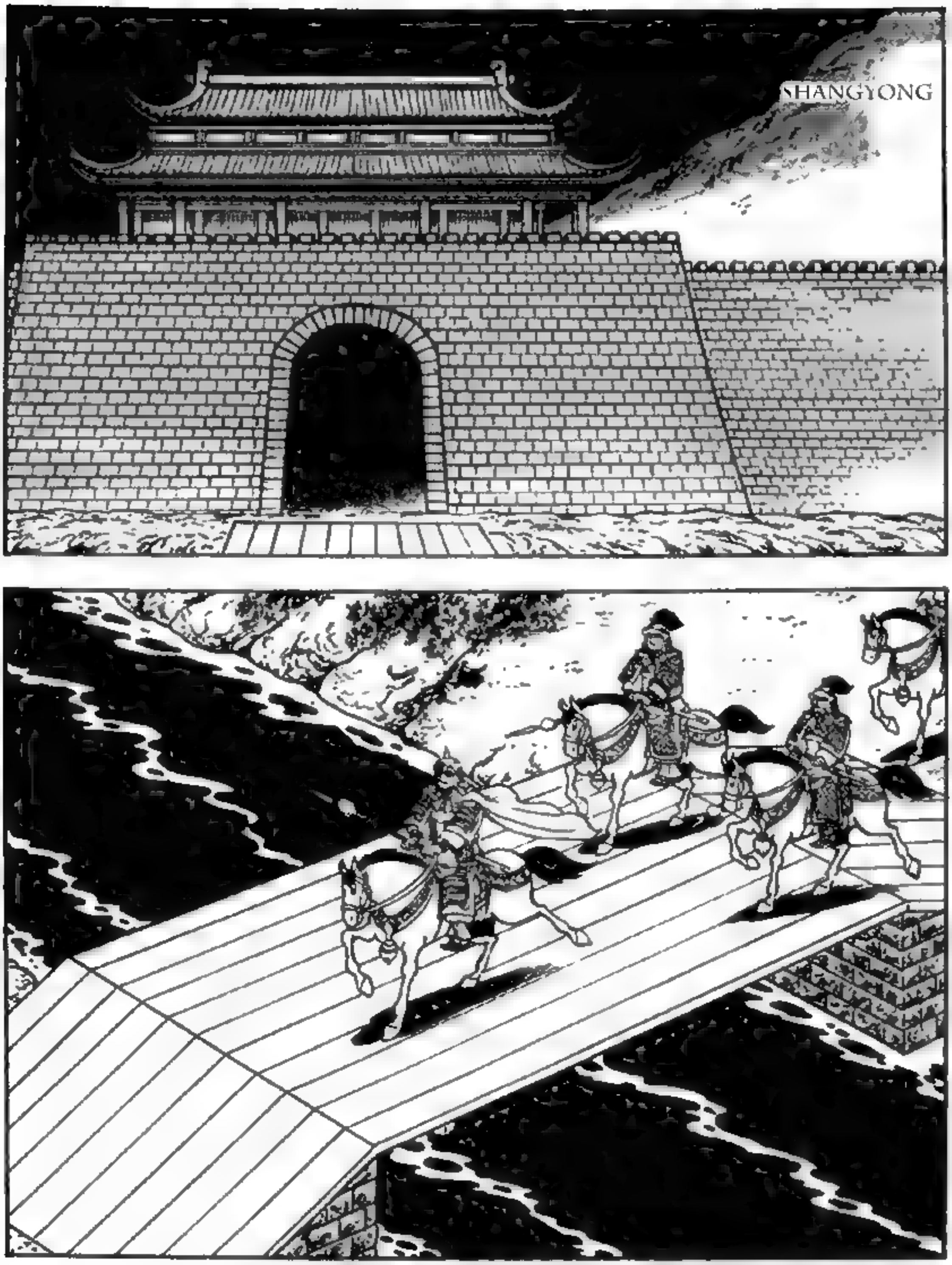







劉
BY THE TIME LIU FENG
MANAGED A BREAK
THROUGH AND
RETREATED FROM THE
BATTLEFIELD, HIS FORCES
WERE IN DISARRAY AND
ONLY A FEW HUNDRED
CAVALRYMEN
ACCOMPANIED HIM

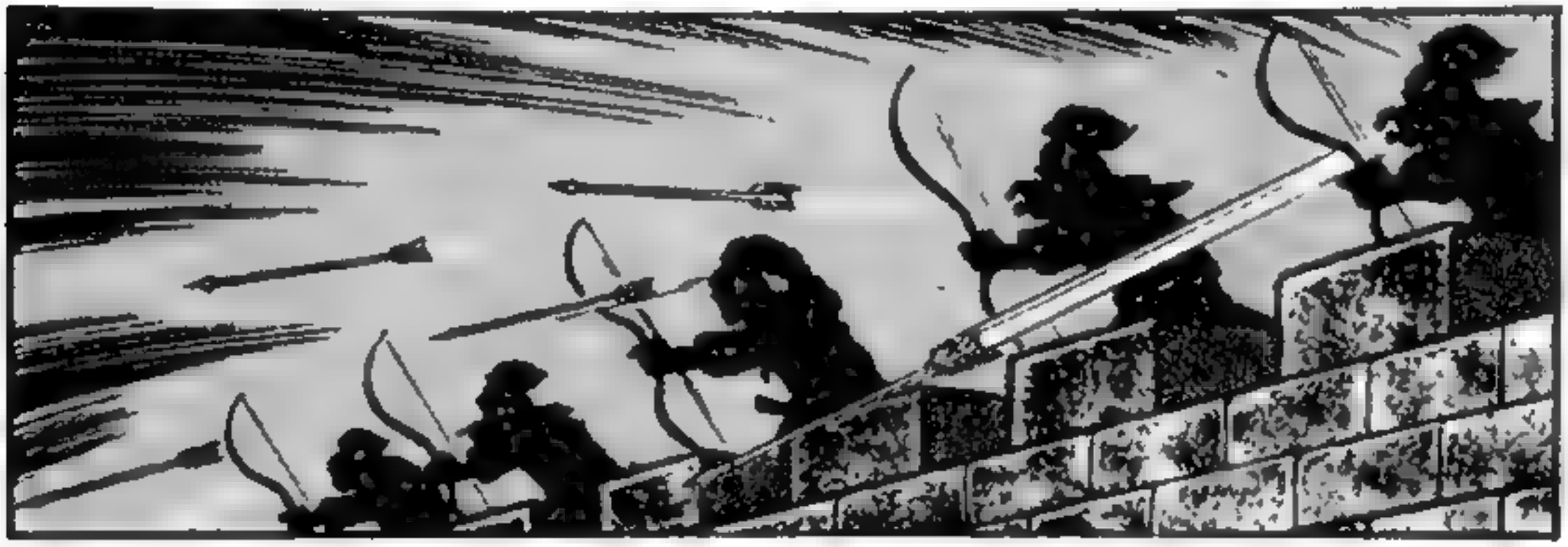
LIU FENG'S DEATH






OPEN THE GATES! THIS IS LIU FENG!

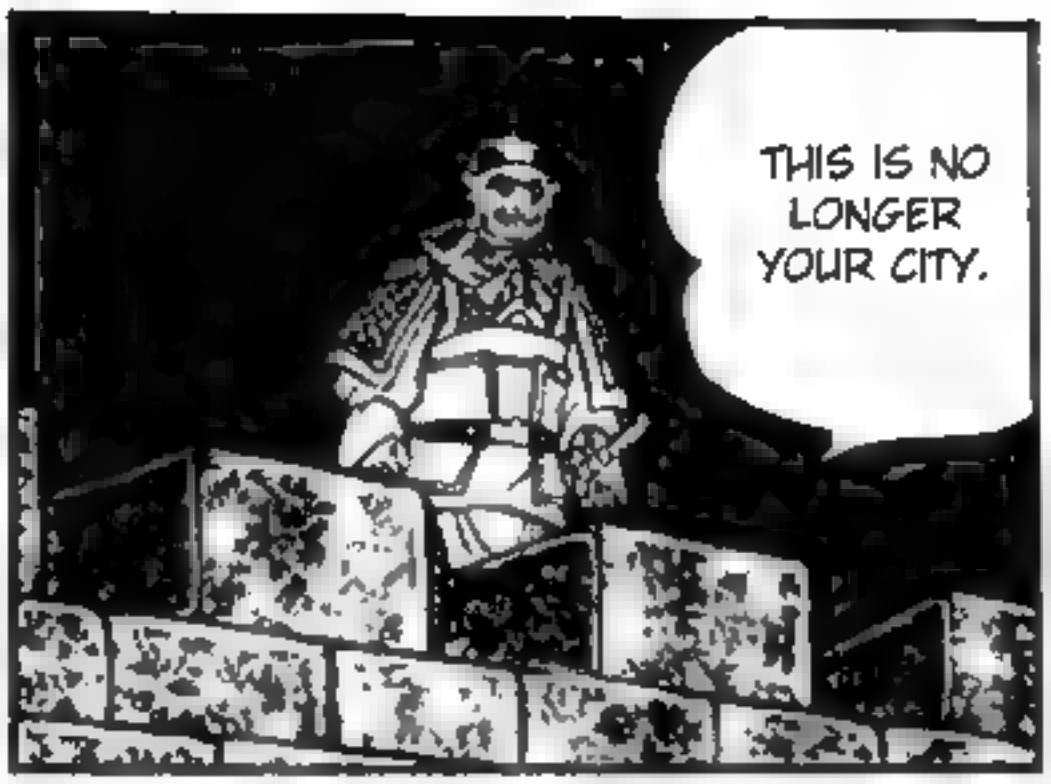





HA!

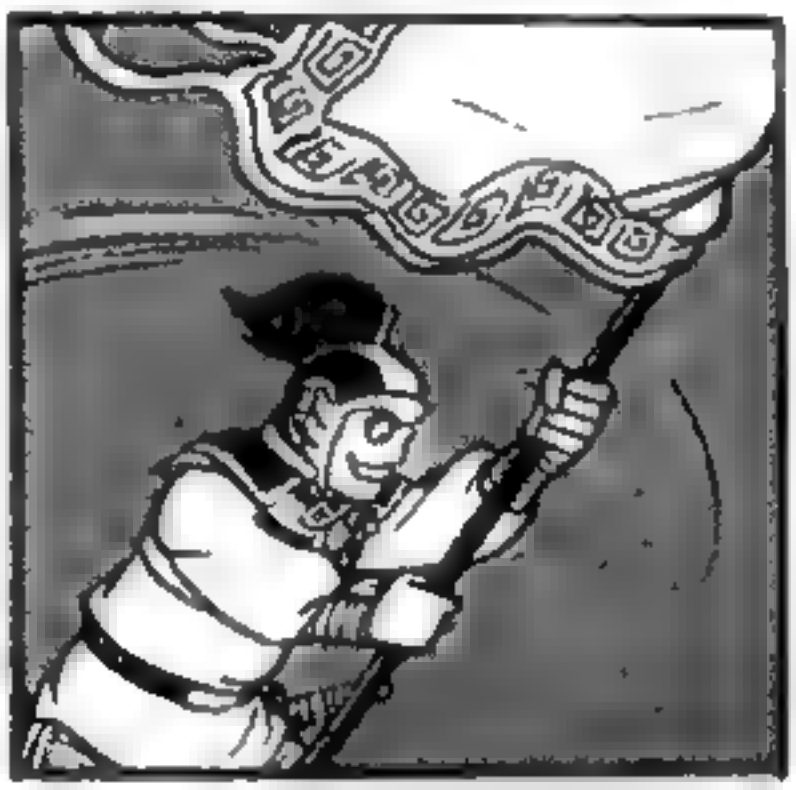

WHAT'RE YOU DOING! I'M LIU FENG!


WHAT!?


THIS IS NO LONGER YOUR CITY.

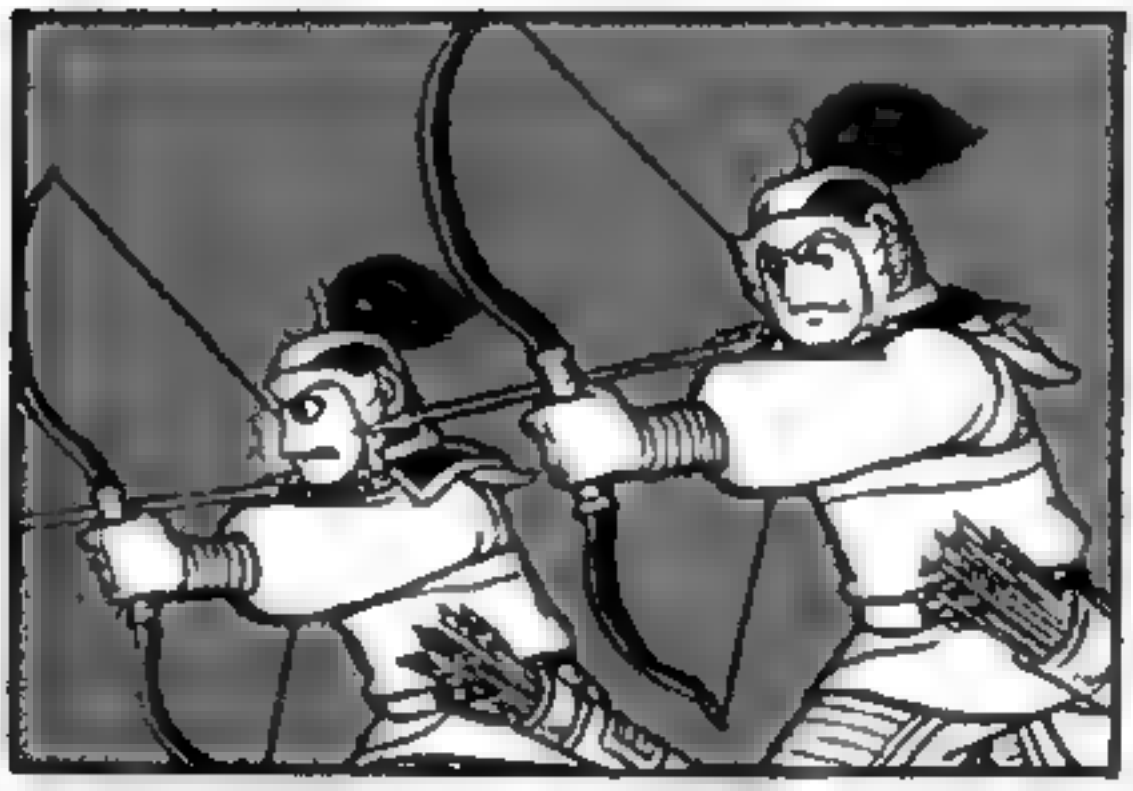

XU HUANG'S BANNER?


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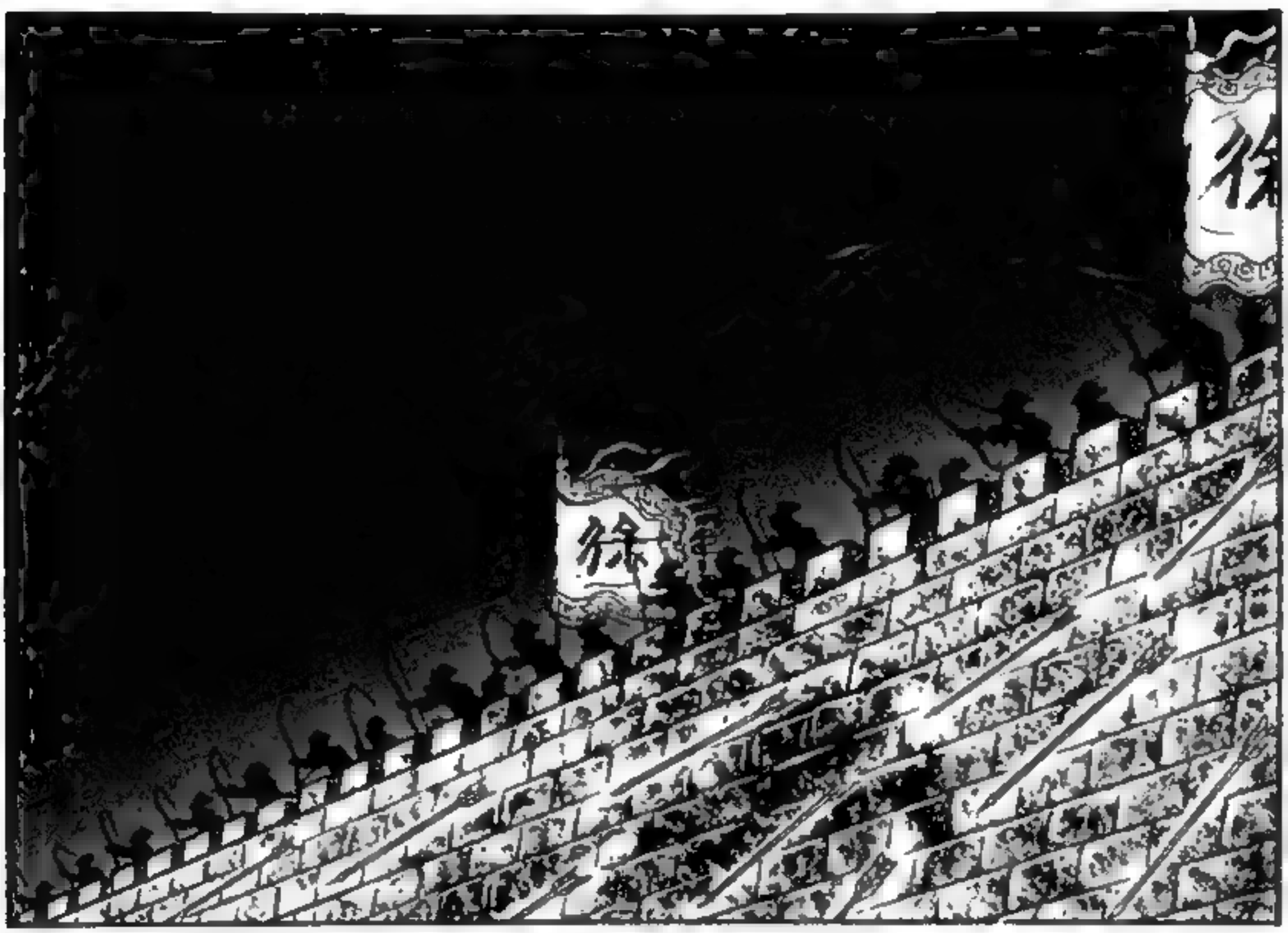


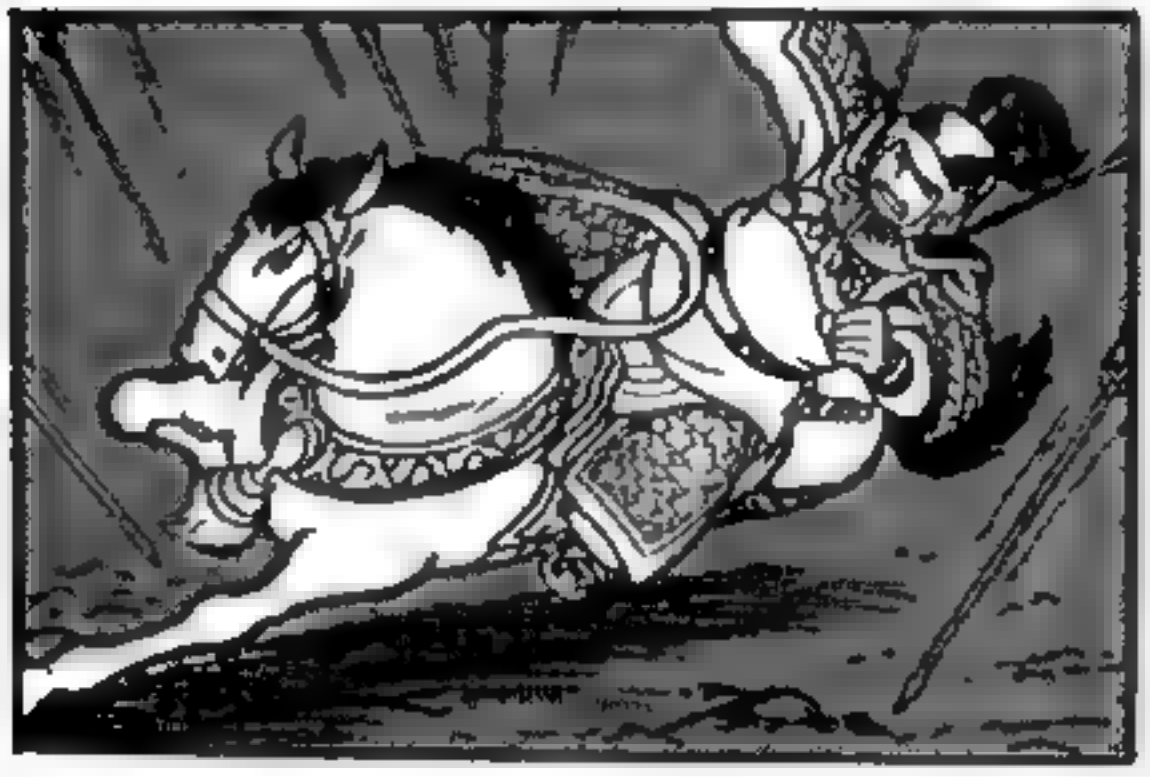

W-WHAT!


WHILE YOU LEFT, WE THE GARRISON DECIDED WE WOULD BE BETTER OFF UNDER XU HUANG'S PROTECTION THAN YOURS!

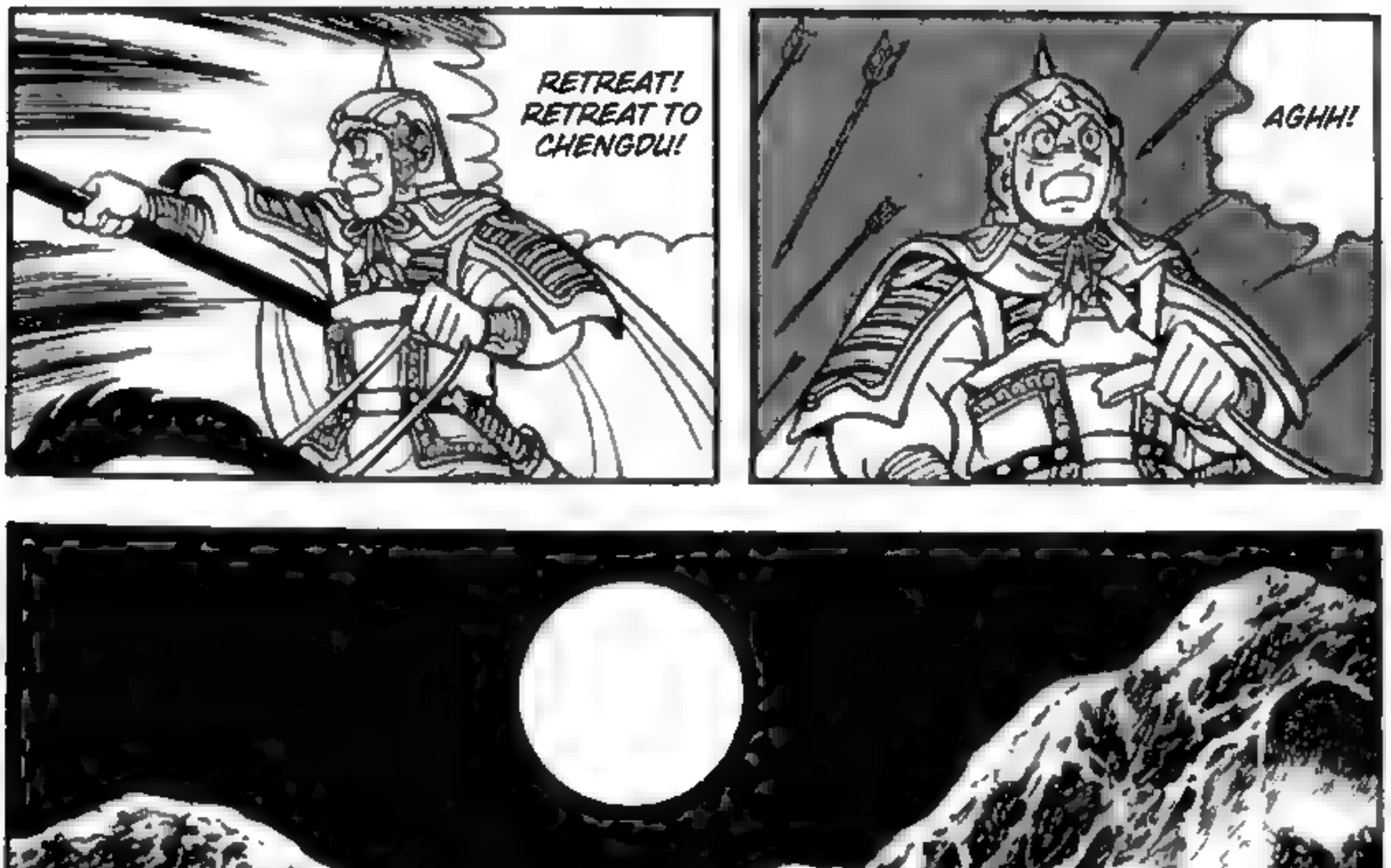



SHOOT!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING!

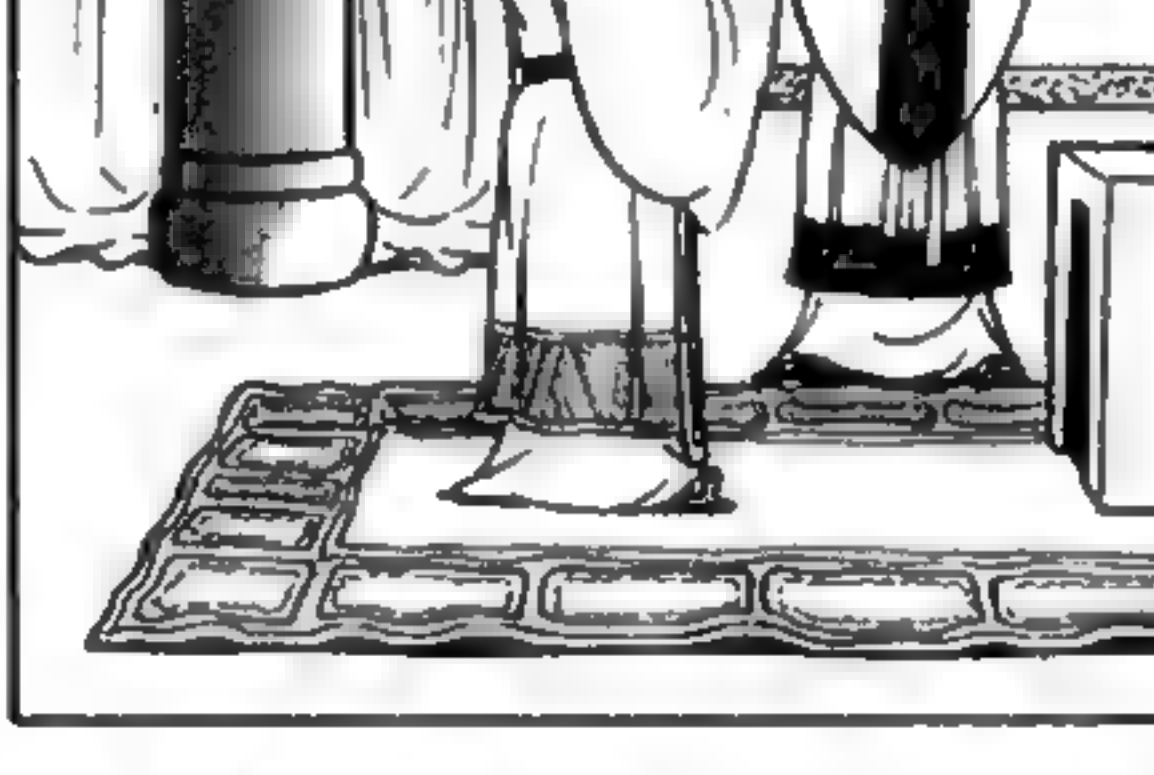







RETREAT! RETREAT TO CHENGDU!
AGHH!


成都
YES, ONLY A FEW MEN SURVIVED TO ACCOMPANY HIS FLIGHT TO HERE.
LIU FENG RETURNED DEFEATED AND BATTERED WITH MOST OF HIS ARMY LOST!?




HMPH, WHAT A COWARD!

IF LEFT UNCHECKED, THIS ISSUE MAY DEEPEN THE RIFT AMONG THE OFFICERS. I MUST BE COLD IN MY JUDGMENT...

I HAVE NO EXCUSES, FATHER...

LIU FENG!

IF YOU HAVE NO EXCUSES, THEN HOW DARE YOU RETURN ALONE!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DEATHS YOU ARE RESPON-SIBLE FOR!?

NOT ONLY ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANNHILATION OF GUAN YU'S ARMY, YOU HAVE NOW LOST ANOTHER ARMY!

GUAN YU WAS MY SWORN BROTHER, MEANING HE WAS AN UNCLE TO YOU. DID YOU NOT REALIZE THAT EVEN THE LITTLE TIME YOU COULD HAVE BOUGHT HIM WITH YOUR REINFORCEMENTS COULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME TO SEND ARMIES FROM CHENGDU!?

THOUGH I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DEFEAT AT XIANGYANG, IT WAS MENG DA WHO DECIDED NOT TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS, SEEING THAT GUAN YU'S SITUATION WAS BEYOND HELP WITH OUR SMALL ARMY.

SEND LIU FENG TO THE EXECUTION GROUNDS!

YOU HAVE ACTED DISHONOURABLY AS A GENERAL AS WELL AS A NEPHEW! ALTHOUGH I AM YOUR FATHER, YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE BUT TO PUNISH YOU TO THE FULL EXTENT OF MILITARY LAW!

COME THIS WAY.

FATHER...

YOUR HIGHNESS.

AS A FATHER, I WISH I COULD SAVE YOU, BUT AS A KING, I CANNOT...

DO YOU ASK ME TO GIVE HIM SPECIAL TREATMENT MERELY ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE IS MY SON?

I PLEAD YOU TO SPARE LIU FENG'S LIFE.

AND I HEAR THAT AT XIANGYANG, MENG DA PERSUADED HIM TO JOIN WEI, BUT LIU FENG WAS SO ENRAGED AT EVEN THE THOUGHT THAT HE SLEW MENG DA'S MESSENGER ON THE SPOT.

EVER SINCE GUAN YU'S DEATH, LIU FENG HAD BEEN TORMENTING HIMSELF OVER HIS DECISION.

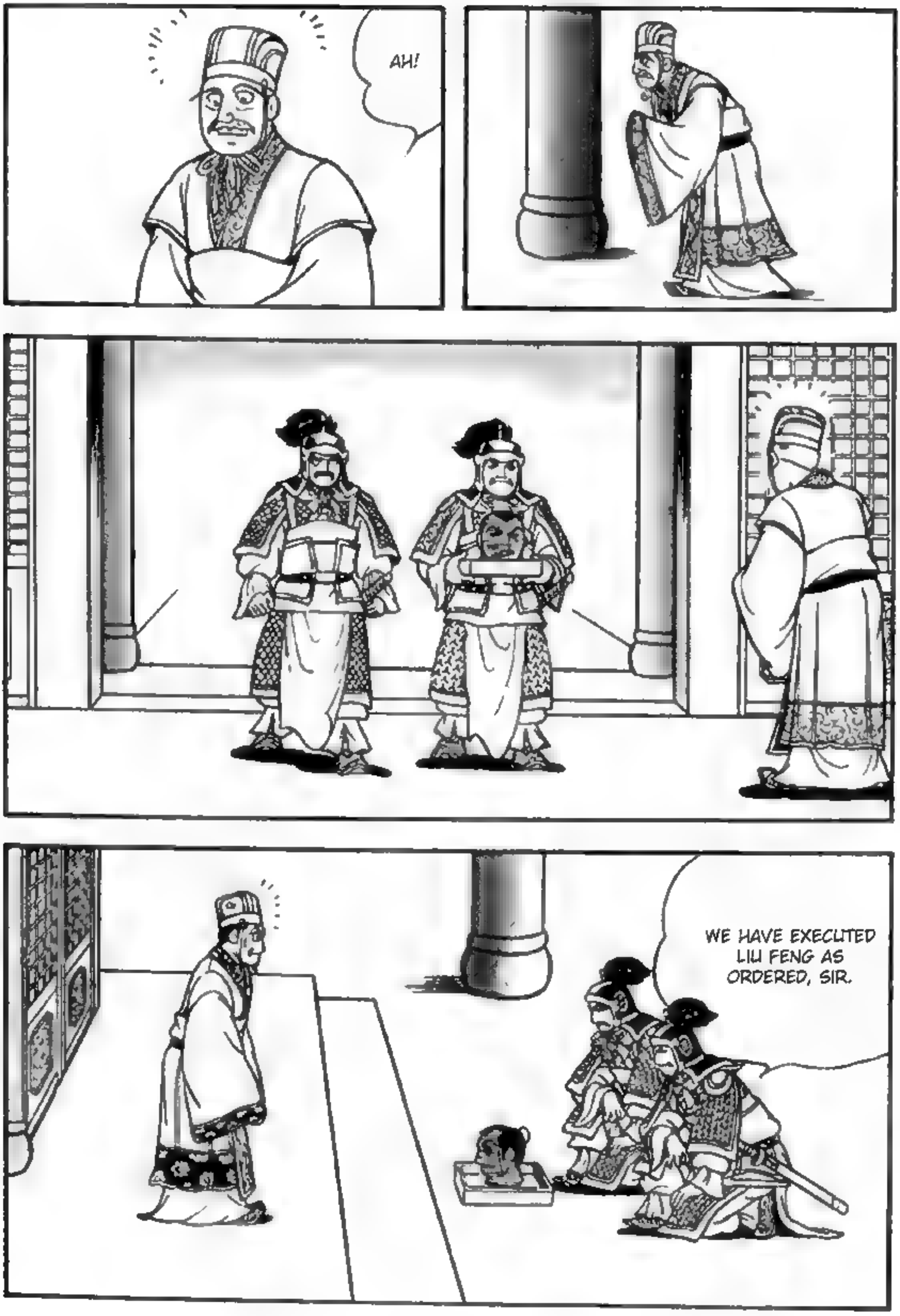
...

ONE OF LIU FENG'S SUBORDINATES GATHERED THE TORN PIECES OF THE LETTER.

I SEE, LIU FENG'S LOYALTY NEVER SWERVED EVEN AT THE RISK OF HIS OWN DEATH.

YES, SIR.

I WAS TOO HASTY IN DENYING HIM COMPASSION. CALL OFF THE EXECUTION.


AH!
WE HAVE EXECUTED LIU FENG AS ORDERED, SIR.

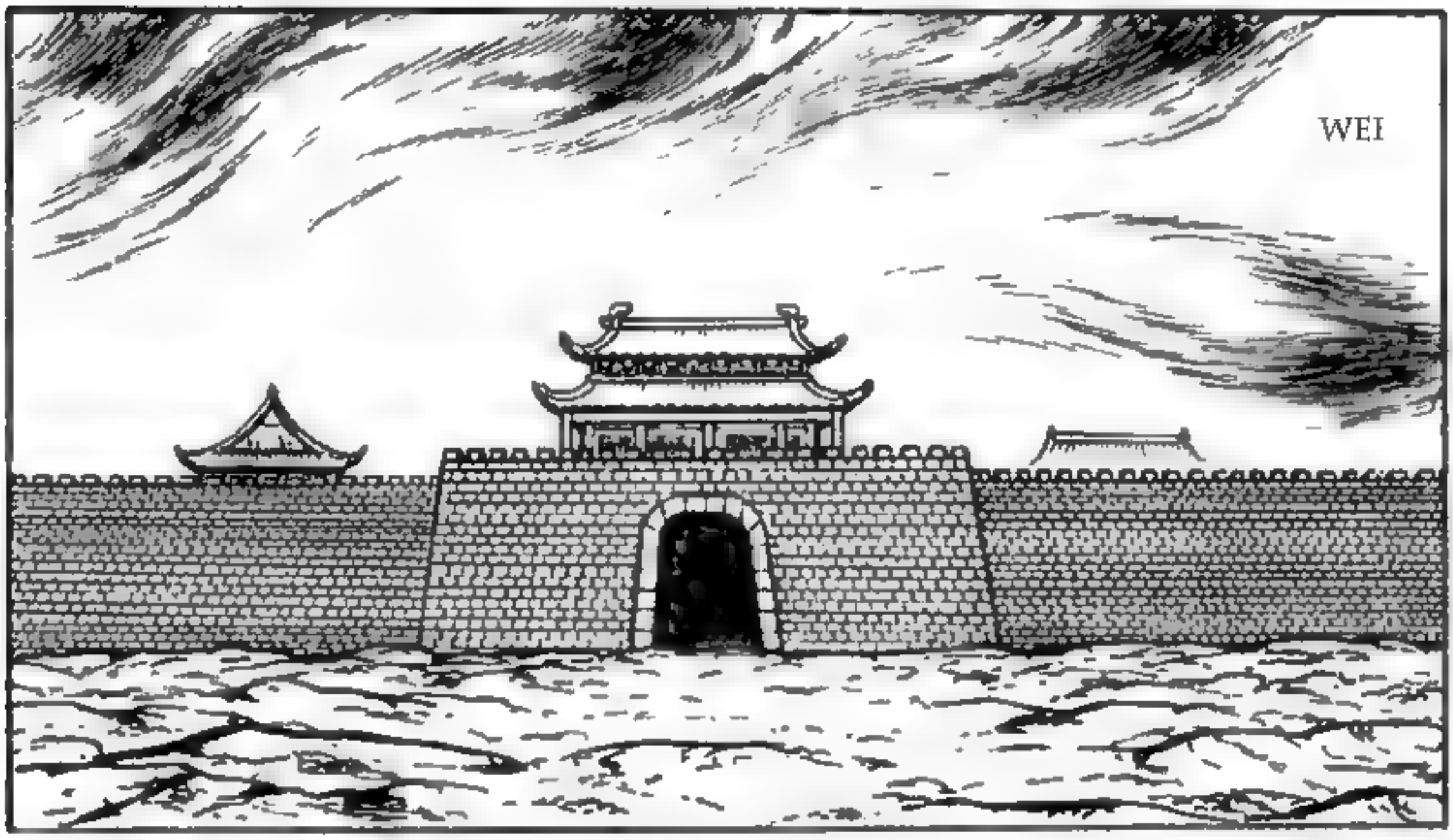
YES, JUST AS YOU ORDERED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

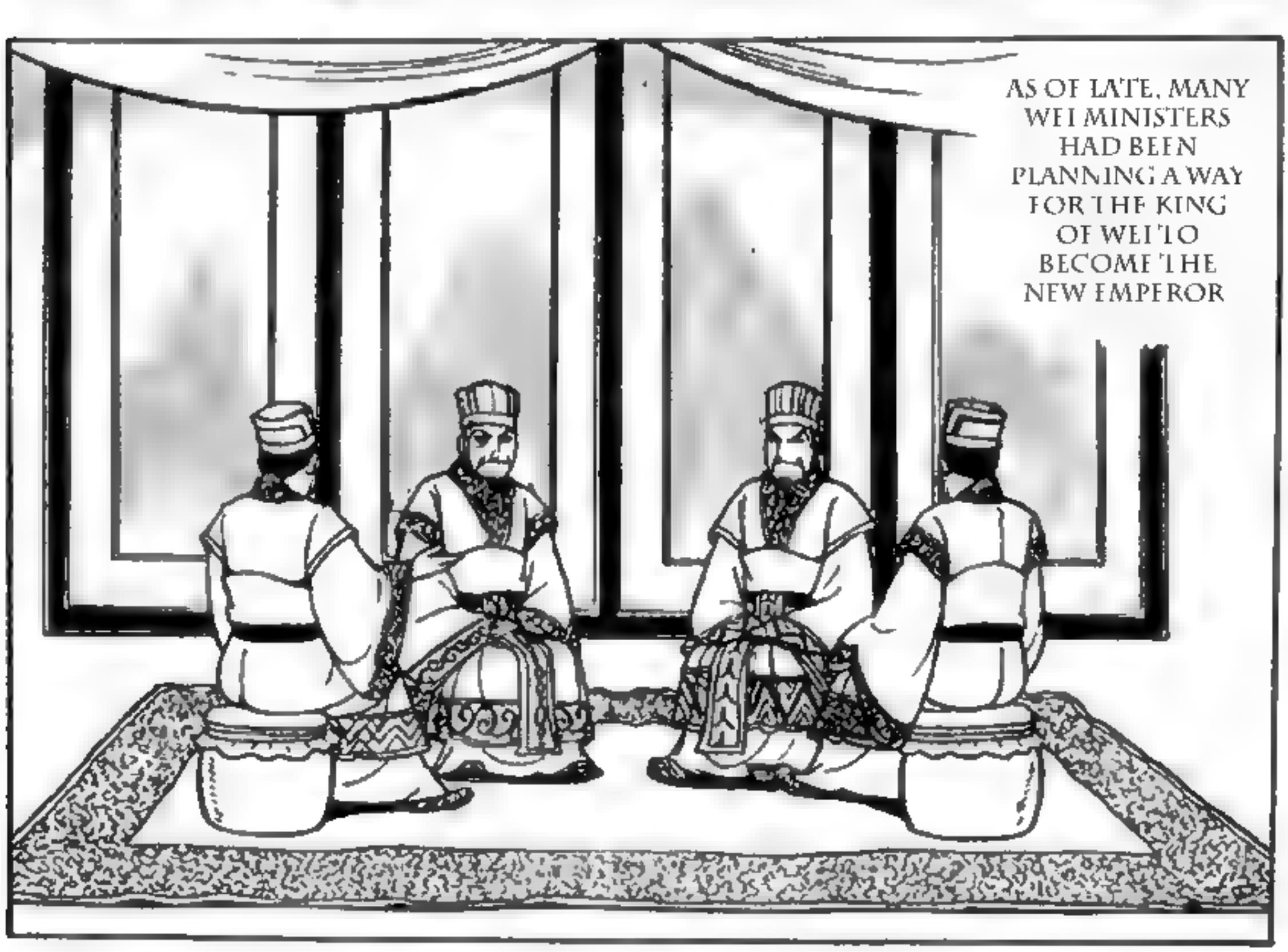
H... HE'S ALREADY DEAD...?

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO RASH!?

MY DEAR SON, LIU FENG...

NEW EMPEROR


WEI


AS OF LATE, MANY WEI MINISTERS HAD BEEN PLANNING A WAY FOR THE KING OF WEI TO BECOME THE NEW EMPEROR

AGAIN? WHAT TROUBLE WILL THEY BRING THIS TIME?

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY, A GROUP OF WEI MINISTERS REQUEST A MEETING WITH YOU.

GOOD DAY, YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY.

A SERIOUS MATTER?

WE COME HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS A MOST SERIOUS MATTER.

YES, THE MANDATE OF HEAVENS IS BESTOWED ONLY UPON THE ONE WITH TRUE VIRTUE, AND IT IS PROPER FOR ONLY THAT PERSON TO RULE

IN THE MISTS OF TIME, THE THREE SOVEREIGNS AND FIVE EMPERORS ALL SUCCEEDED AFTER THE OTHER BASED ON THEIR VIRTUE AND MORAL RIGHT.

ACCORDING TO THE ASTROLOGERS, THE IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S STAR HAS DIMMED WHILE THE STAR OF THE WEI KING GROWS BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER EVERY NIGHT.

HAD THE MANDATE OF HEAVENS REMAINED IN YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S HOUSEHOLD, THEN THE EMPIRE WOULD NOT HAVE DECLINED. RESIGN YOURSELF TO THE WILL OF THE HEAVENS, AND DO WHAT MUST BE DONE FOR THE GOOD OF THE REALM.

FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, WHAT HAS PROSPERED MUST DECLINE. THE HAN DYNASTY HAS ALREADY LASTED FOR 400 YEARS, BUT IS NOW WANING. IT LACKS THE AUTHORITY TO GOVERN THE REALM FOR MUCH LONGER.

SUCH IS THE FLOW OF TIME, AN INEVITABLE CHANGE OF THE AGES.

YOU DARE ASK YOUR EMPEROR TO ABDICATE!?

MY SUPREME ANCESTOR DESTROYED QIN AND ESTABLISHED A DYNASTY THAT HAS LASTED FOR OVER FOUR CENTURIES! HOW DARE YOU ASK ME TO SIMPLY TERMINATE THE TIRELESS WORK OF GENERATIONS!

NO!

NONE OF THAT CHANGES THE PLAIN FACT THAT YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY NO LONGER HAS THE MORAL AUTHORITY NOR POWER TO EFFECTIVELY GOVERN THE REALM. IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT THOSE FIT TO GOVERN SHOULD BECOME SOVEREIGNS. REFLECT CAREFULLY UPON OUR CURRENT TIMES AND CHOOSE WISELY, SO THAT THE EMPIRE CAN BE REJUVENATED AND ENJOY WEALTH AND PROSPERITY ONCE MORE.

NO... NO, I COULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING.

AM I TO BE THE ONE TO END 400 YEARS OF HAN DYNASTY?

I CANNOT BELIEVE IT... LONG HAVE I DREADED THIS MOMENT WHEN THE KING OF WEI WOULD COME TO DEMAND THE IMPERIAL THRONE...

BUT EVEN SO, I LACK POWER AND ALL THE MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS AROUND ME ARE SUBSERVIENT ONLY TO THE KING OF WEI WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY DO...?

MY BROTHER, CAO PI, HAS REQUESTED MY RETURN TO THE WEI PALACE. I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE AS ORDERED.

EMPRESS CAO!

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY.

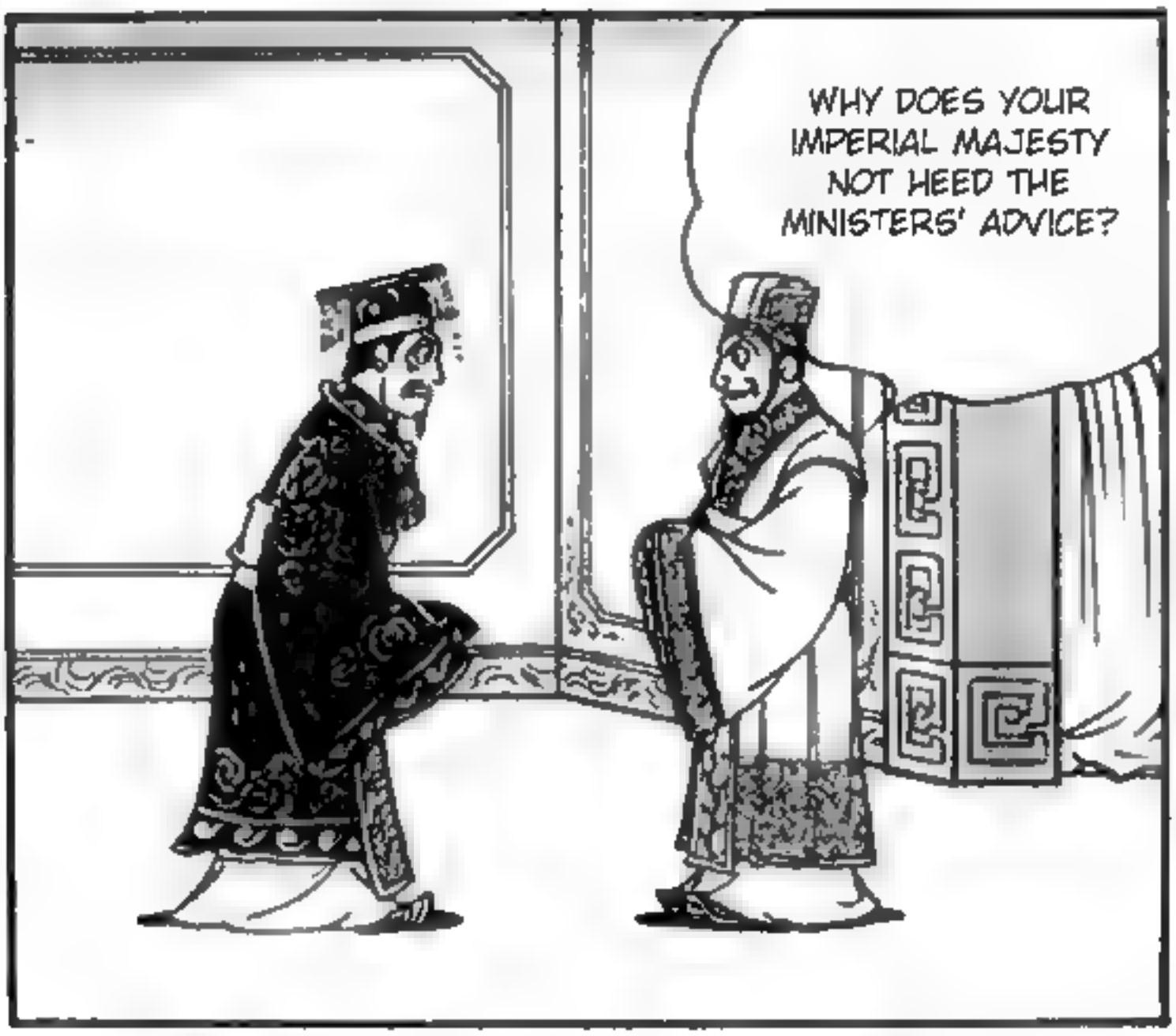
I'M AFRAID THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN DEFY THE WEI KING'S WILL.

D-DON'T TELL ME YOU WON'T EVER BE RETURNING...

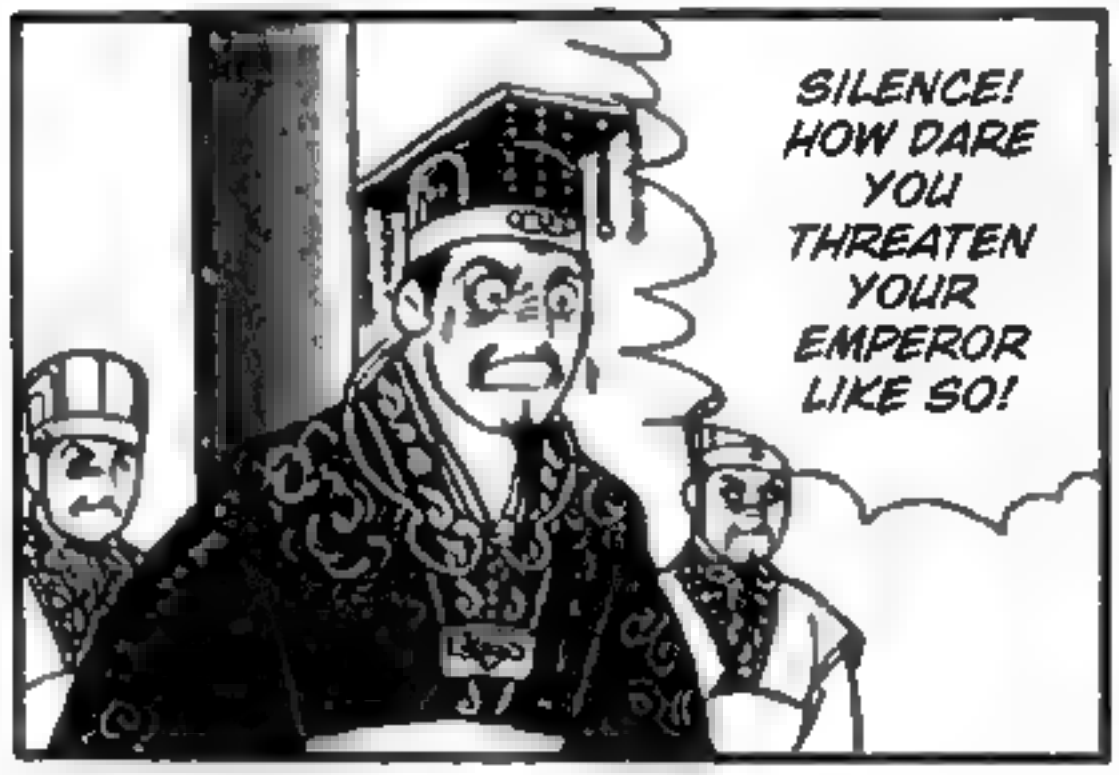
.....

E-EVEN YOU ARE ABAN-DONING ME...?


W-WAIT!


WHY DOES YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY NOT HEED THE MINISTERS' ADVICE?




SILENCE! HOW DARE YOU THREATEN YOUR EMPEROR LIKE SO!


YOUR DELAY WILL ONLY PUT YOU IN GREATER DANGER.

FOR OVER 30 YEARS I HAVE SAT ON THE IMPERIAL THRONE, AND NOT ONCE HAVE I SINNED THROUGH ILL GOVERNANCE! IF THE PEOPLE ARE RESENTFUL TOWARDS THEIR GOVERNMENT, THEN IT IS THE KING OF WEI WHO SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, FOR HE HAS FORCIBLY RULED IN MY NAME!

NGHH... YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR SUCH BLATANT LIES!?

YOU MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS. I AM MERELY CONCERNED FOR YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S PERSONAL SAFETY, WHICH IS JEOPARDIZED BY YOUR CONTINUED HESITANCE. I SPEAK OUT OF LOYALTY, NOT CALLOUSNESS.

WHERE IS THE KEEPER OF THE IMPERIAL SEAL!?

WHERE IS THE KEEPER OF THE SEAL!?

THE KEEPER OF THE SEAL WAS THE ONE WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPERIAL SEAL AND OTHER REGALIA ITEMS

SO YOU'RE THE ONE?

Y-YES, I AM ZU BI, THE CURRENT KEEPER OF THE SEAL.

WHAT!

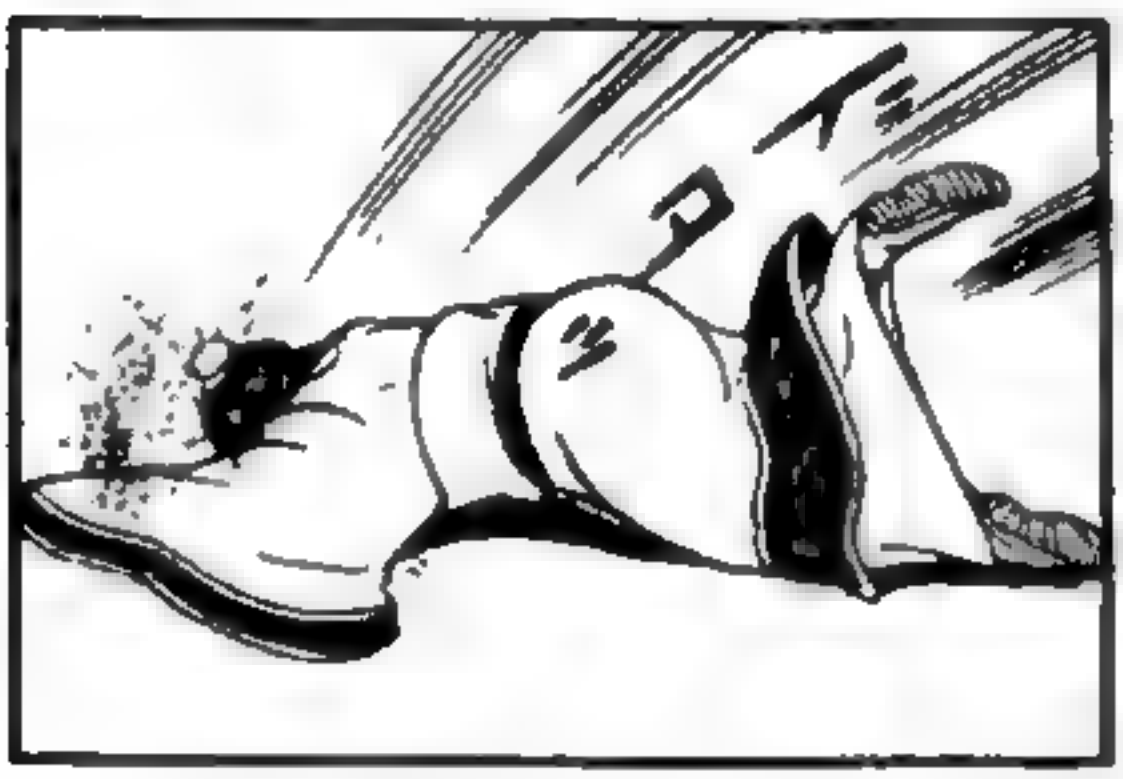
THEN HAND OVER THE IMPERIAL SEAL.


I WILL NOT REPEAT MYSELF AGAIN. HAND OVER THE IMPERIAL SEAL.


A-ARE YOU AWARE OF THE WORDS YOU UTTER RIGHT NOW...?



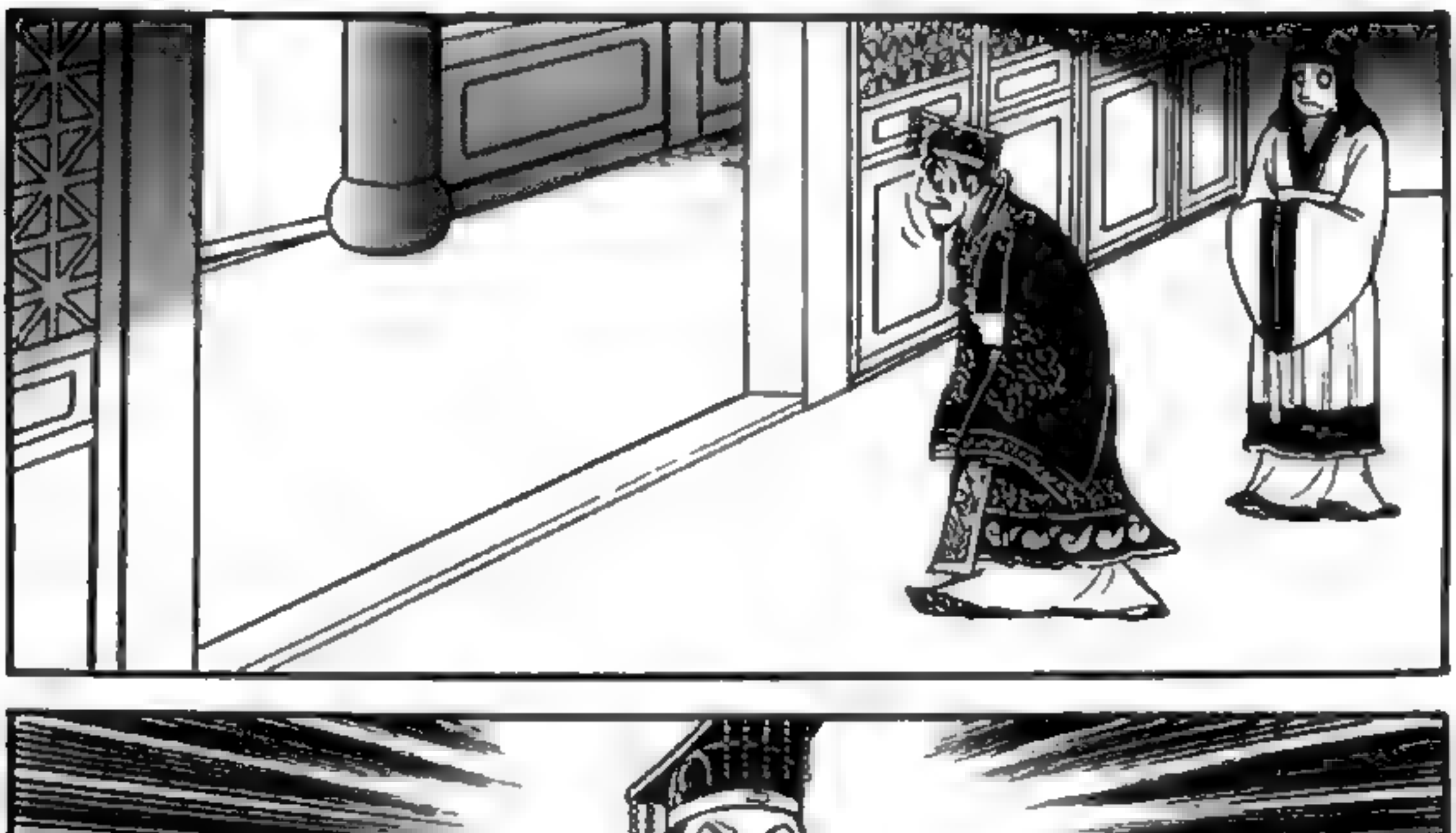

HOW DARE YOU DEMAND THE VERY SYMBOL OF THE SON OF HEAVEN! HOW DARE YOU DEMAND THAT IT BE HANDED OVER TO SUCH BASE MEN WHO KNOW NEITHER VIRTUES NOR ETIQUETTE!



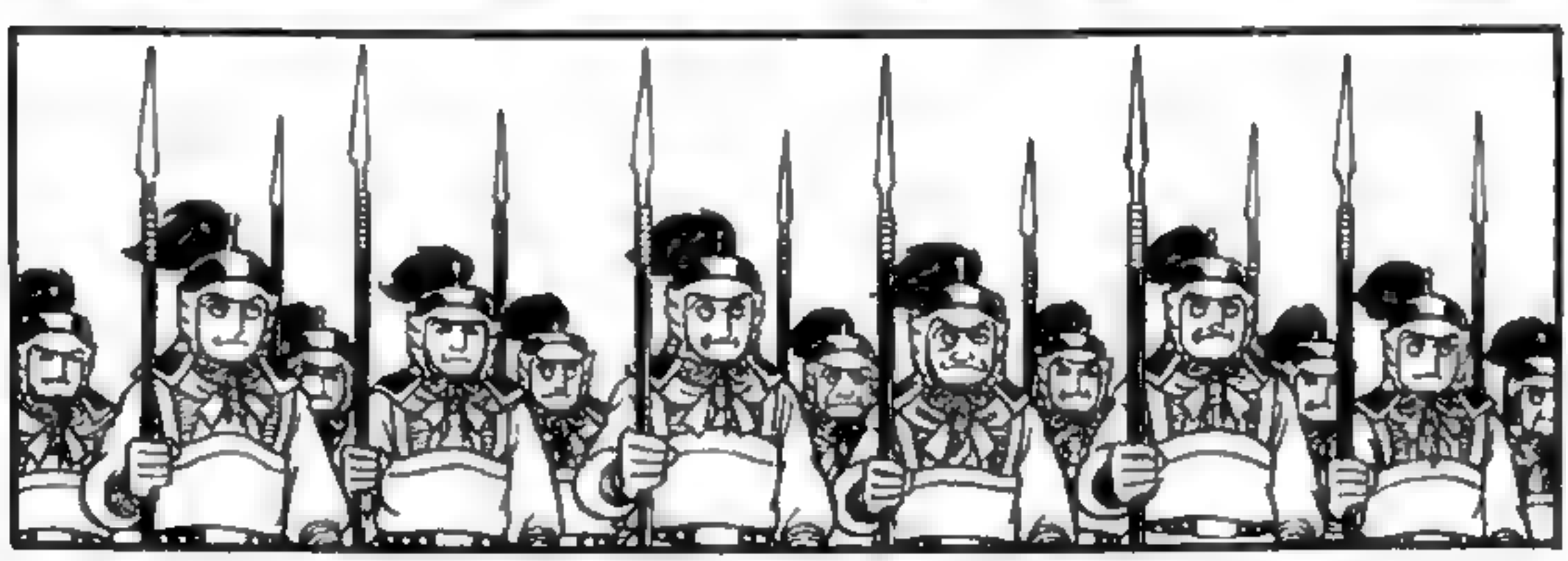



LOOK AROUND, YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY.


AGHH!



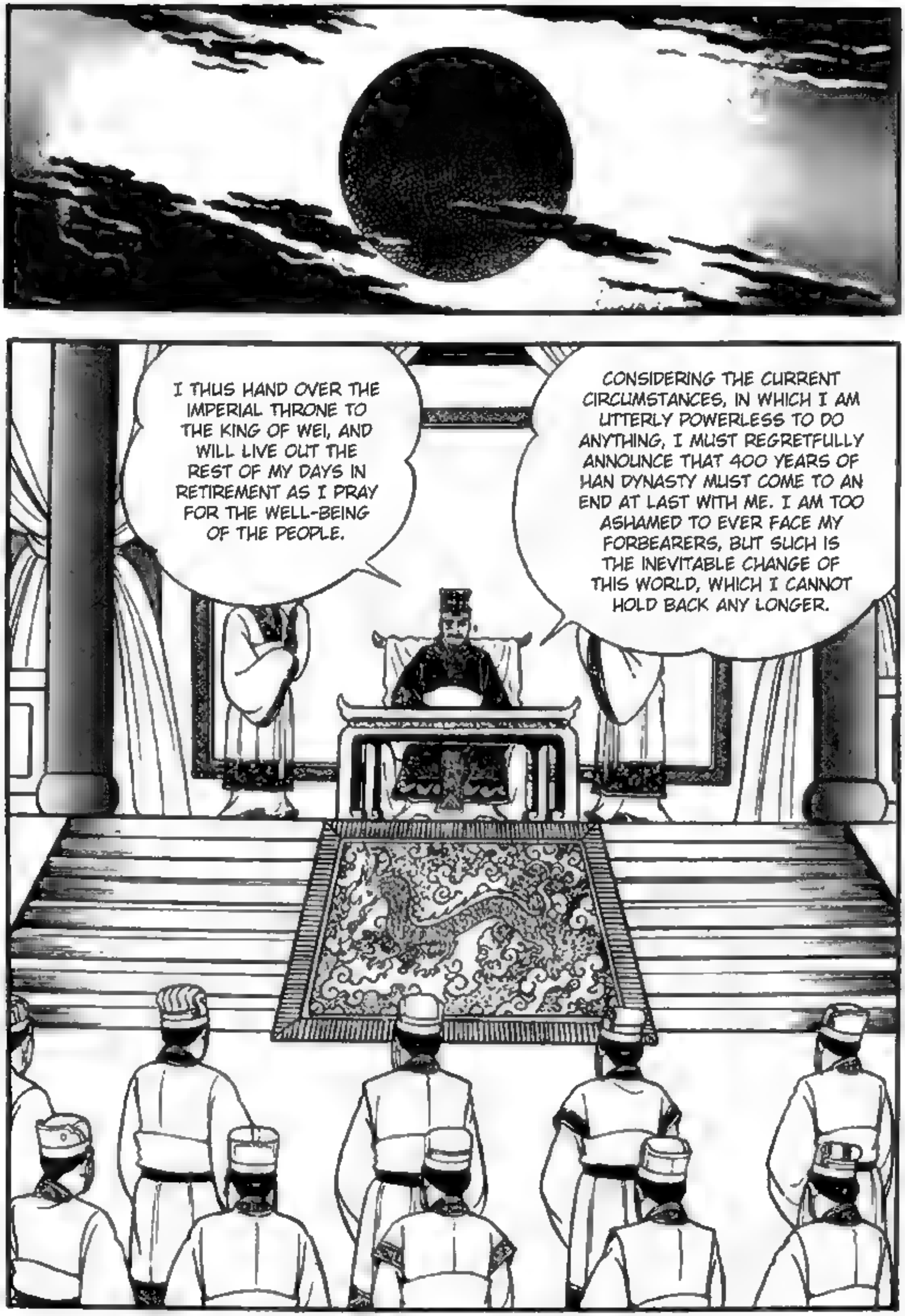




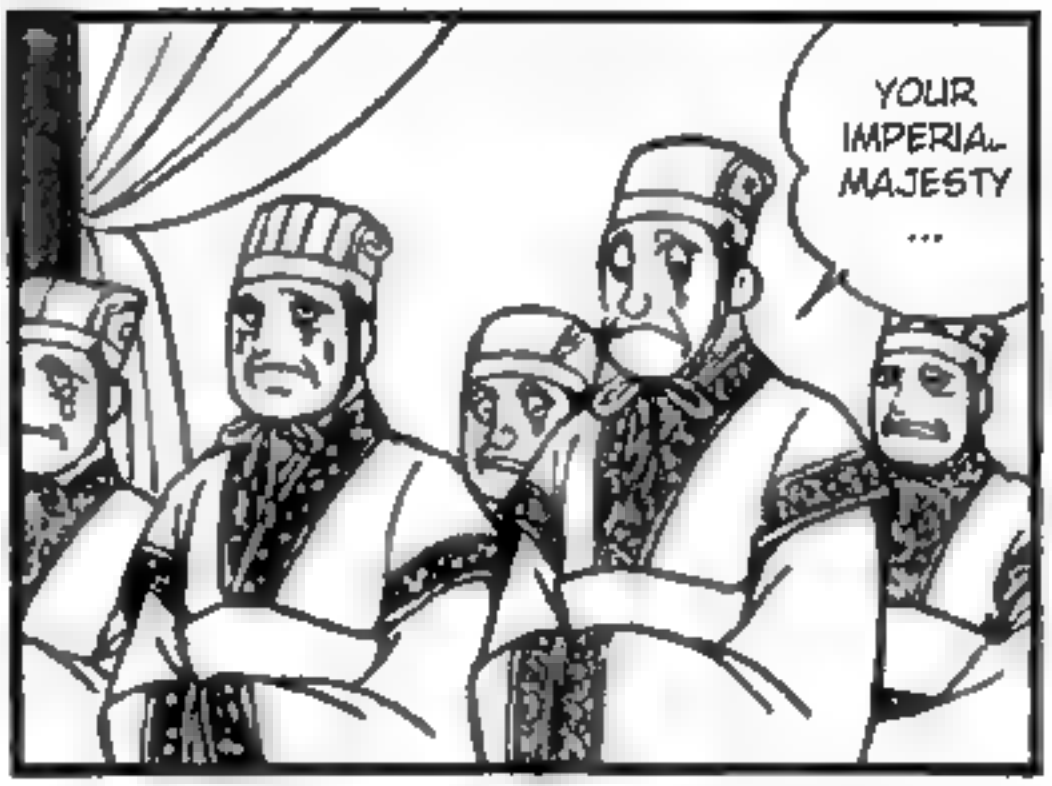
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID TO DELAY ANY LONGER WILL JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY.

UUU...

ARE YOU WILLING TO TURN THE IMPERIAL PALACE INTO A SEA OF BLOOD?


I THUS HAND OVER THE IMPERIAL THRONE TO THE KING OF WEI, AND WILL LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY DAYS IN RETIREMENT AS I PRAY FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE.
CONSIDERING THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IN WHICH I AM UTTERLY POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING, I MUST REGRETFULLY ANNOUNCE THAT 400 YEARS OF HAN DYNASTY MUST COME TO AN END AT LAST WITH ME. I AM TOO ASHAMED TO EVER FACE MY FORBEARERS, BUT SUCH IS THE INEVITABLE CHANGE OF THIS WORLD, WHICH I CANNOT HOLD BACK ANY LONGER.


FORGIVE US FOR BEING SO POWERLESS TO PREVENT ALL OF THIS...

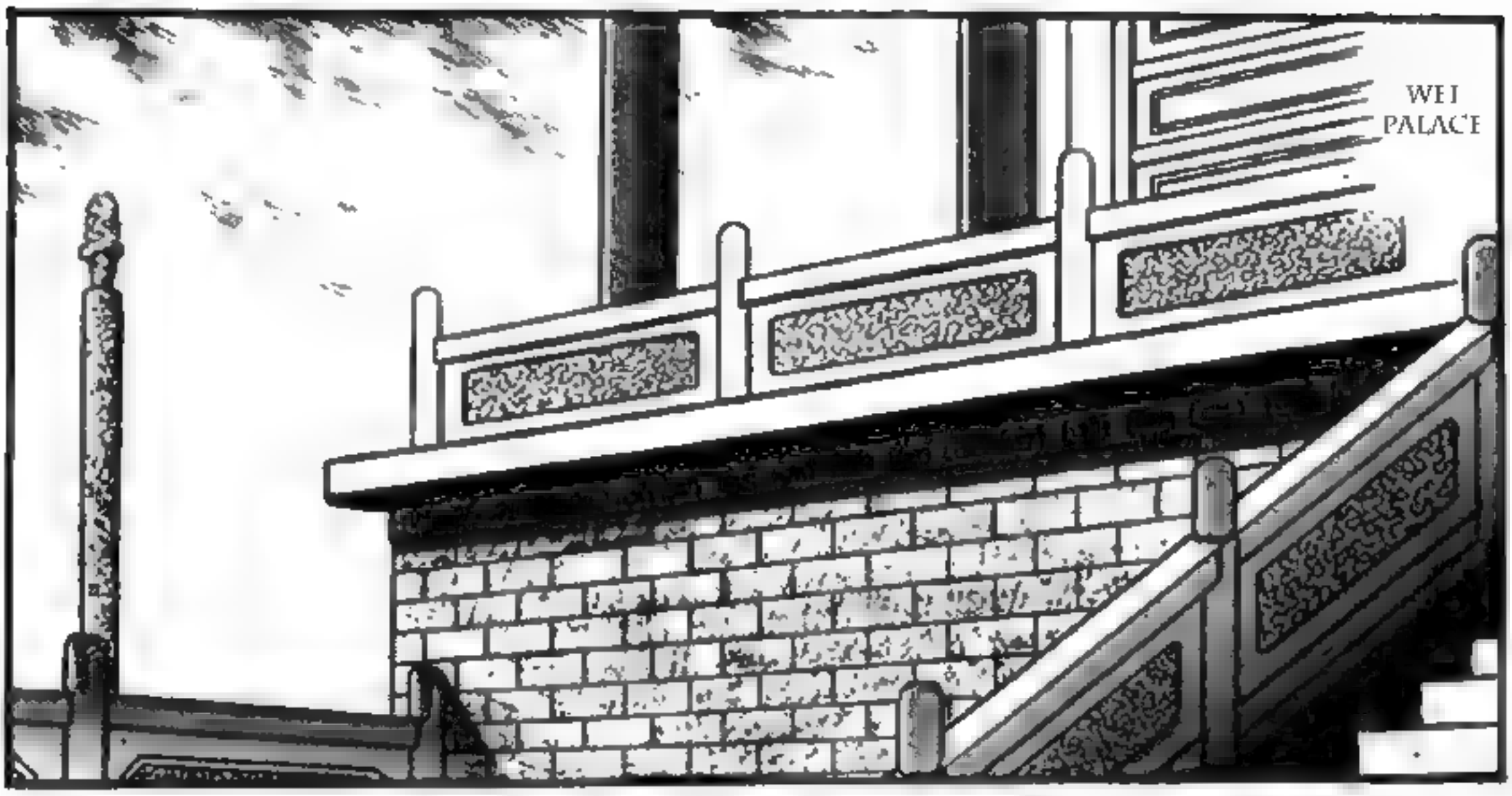

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY ...






I URGE YOU TO QUICKLY DRAFT THE ABDICATION DECREE.
A WISE CHOICE, YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY. THAT THE THRONE IS PASSED FROM ONE DYNASTY TO THE NEXT WITHOUT BLOODSHED IS THE SUREST SIGN OF FUTURE STABILITY.


THUS, EMPEROR XIAN WAS FORCED TO WRITE THE DECREE FOR HIS OWN ABDICATION


WEI
PALACE


DO YOU HEAR THAT? NOW I WILL BE EMPEROR!


THE EMPEROR HAS SENT THE IMPERIAL SEAL AND ABDICATION DECREE?


LET US GO ACCEPT THE SEAL AND DECREE THEN.

YOU MUST NOT LIGHTLY ACCEPT SUCH THINGS.

?

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO REFUSE?

PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT, YOUR HIGHNESS.

ACCEPTING THE IMPERIAL THRONE LIGHTLY WILL ONLY EARN YOUR HIGHNESS THE PEOPLE'S SLANDER. YOU MUST FIRST DEMONSTRATE YOUR INTENT ON REFUSING IT, BEFORE THE REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE THRONE BECOMES TOO FORCEFUL TO DECLINE RESPECTFULLY.

VERY WELL, I WILL REFUSE THE OFFER FOR NOW THEN.

EXACTLY, YOUR HIGHNESS.

AH, SO YOU FEAR THAT ACCEPTING NOW WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE THINK I FORCIBLY STOLE THE THRONE.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAS DECLARED HIS INTENT TO HAND OVER THE IMPERIAL THRONE TO THE KING OF WEI.

WELCOME TO MY PALACE.

I BEG YOUR PARDON? ME? BECOME EMPEROR?

ON BEHALF OF EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN, WE PRESENT TO YOUR HIGHNESS THE IMPERIAL SEAL AND OFFICIAL DECREE OF ABDICATION.

I DO NOT YET POSSESS THE NECESSARY VIRTUE TO BECOME EMPEROR, SO I MUST RESPECTFULLY DECLINE THE THRONE AT THIS CURRENT TIME.

HM?

THAT WILL NOT DO.

PLEASE RETURN THE SEAL TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY AND LET HIM KNOW HE SHOULD CONTINUE ON WITH THE GOVERNANCE OF THE EMPIRE.


U... UNDERSTOOD. AS PER YOUR WISHES, WE WILL RETURN THE SEAL TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY.


SIMPLY SUPERB.
HOW WAS THAT, SIMA YI?



YES

WHAT!? HE REFUSED!?

OH, I'M SURE HE WILL ACCEPT ONCE YOU'VE HUMBLED YOURSELF TO APPROPRIATE LEVELS FOR THE NEW EMPEROR.

HUA XIN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

I ASK YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY TO RECALL THE SAGE EMPEROR YAO'S ABDICATION.

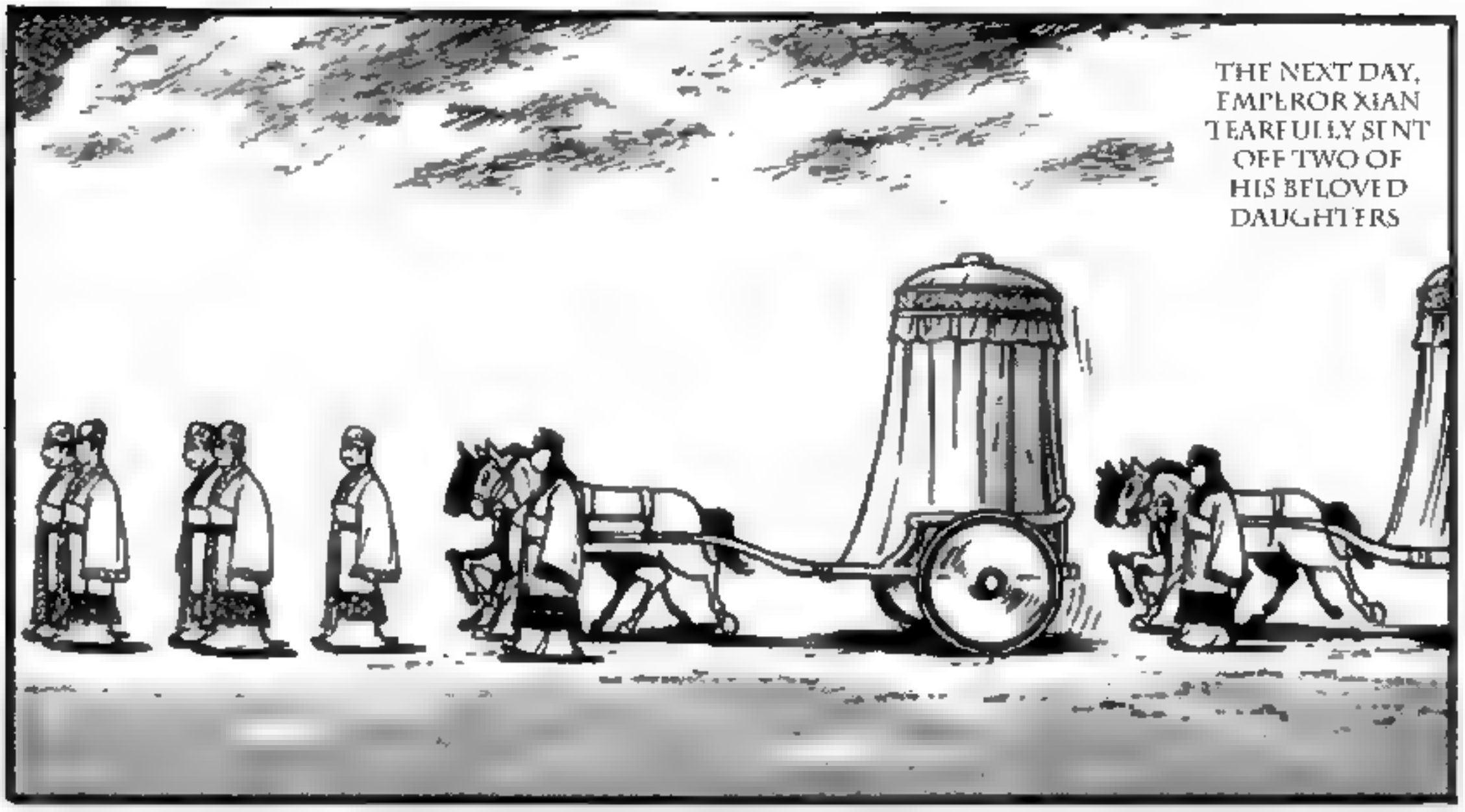
WHAT! SO I MUST GROVEL EVEN LOWER!?

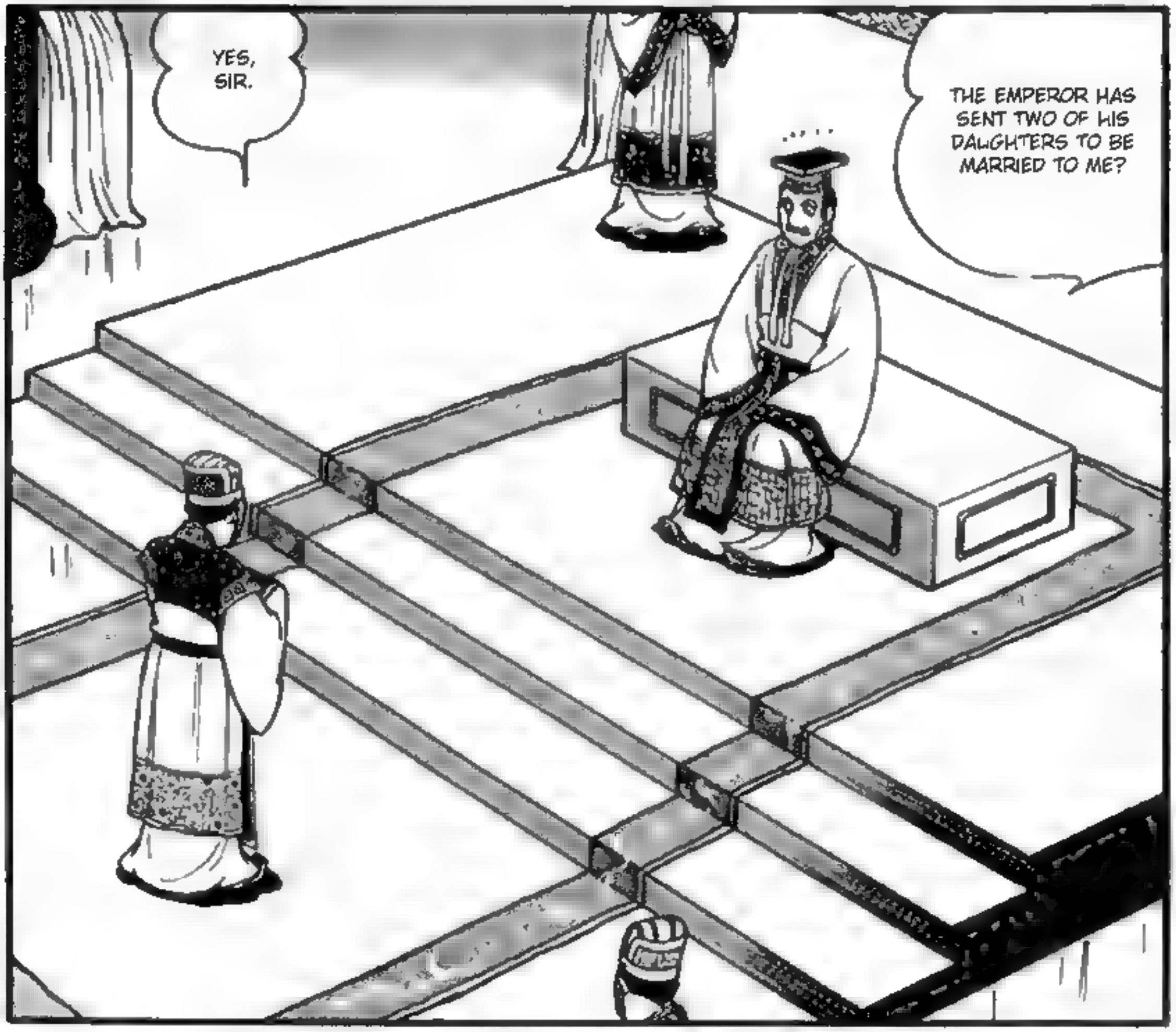
MUST I THEN SEND MY DAUGHTERS AS WELL?

THAT WOULD BE WISE, SIR.

EMPEROR YAO HAD TRIED TO PASS ON THE THRONE TO SHUN, BUT THE LATTER DENIED AGAIN AND AGAIN. IT WAS ONLY AFTER EMPEROR YAO GAVE HIS TWO DAUGHTERS' HANDS IN MARRIAGE TO SHUN, THAT SHUN FELT HE COULD NO LONGER REFUSE AND CONSENTED TO ASCENDING TO THE THRONE.

.....


THE NEXT DAY, EMPEROR XIAN TEARFULLY SENT OFF TWO OF HIS BELOVED DAUGHTERS


YES, SIR.
THE EMPEROR HAS SENT TWO OF HIS DAUGHTERS TO BE MARRIED TO ME?

YOU MUST NOT ACCEPT YET, YOUR HIGHNESS

WELL, IF HE'S WILLING TO GO THAT FAR, THEN...

TELL HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THAT WHILE I FULLY APPRECIATE HIS SENTIMENTS, I CANNOT ACCEPT HIS OFFER ON ACCOUNT OF THE SAME REASONS I DECLINED THE THRONE YESTERDAY.

WHY NOT?

I URGE YOU TO REFUSE FOR NOW

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

IS THAT CLEAR?

THERE IS NO RUSH FOR YOUR HIGHNESS TO ASCEND TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE.

TELL ME, SIMA YI. THE EMPEROR WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO EMULATE EMPEROR YAO, SO WHY DID I NEED TO REFUSE A SECOND TIME?

ALRIGHT, BUT HOW MANY TIMES MUST I REFUSE?

WHAT'S FAR MORE WORRISOME IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT PEOPLE MIGHT SAY THE CAO HOUSEHOLD STOLE THE THRONE FROM THE RIGHTFUL HAN OWNERS. WE MUST TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO PREVENT SUCH SLANDER.

WHAT? YOU THINK HE WILL COME AND HAND OVER THE SEAL IN PERSON?

UNTIL THE EMPEROR PERSONALLY PRESENTS YOUR HIGHNESS THE IMPERIAL SEAL.

WORRY NOT, SIR. HUA XIN IS ALREADY AT WORK TO ENSURE THAT WILL HAPPEN.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

HMM, WELL THAT SOUNDS ALL GOOD. I WILL LEAVE THE MATTER TO YOUR HANDS THEN.

HE WILL INSTRUCT THE EMPEROR TO FIRST CONSTRUCT AN ALTAR NAMED ABDICATION ACCEPTANCE. THEN, ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY, A PUBLIC CEREMONY WILL BE HELD IN WHICH THE EMPEROR WILLINGLY BESTOWS THE THRONE TO YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND MINISTERS. ONLY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WILL IT BE APPROPRIATE BEYOND DOUBT TO ACCEPT THE IMPERIAL THRONE.

YES, SO THE WHOLE REALM CAN SEE THAT THE SUCCESSION IS LEGITIMATE AND CAN THUS REST EASY.

I MUST CONSTRUCT AN ALTAR UPON WHICH I WILL HAND OVER THE SEAL IN PERSON DURING A PUBLIC CEREMONY!?

IF YOU ARE SET UPON HANDING OVER THE THRONE, YOU SHOULD SEE THROUGH THE MATTER UNTIL THE END.

I SUPPOSE I CAN'T JUST REFUSE NOW, HAVING COME THIS FAR...

A WISE CHOICE.

VERY WELL, I SHALL ORDER THE ALTAR'S CONSTRUCTION.

THE ALTAR S CONSTUCTION BEGAN AT ONCE


BY THAT YEAR'S 10TH MONTH, BOTH THE CONSTRUCTION AND ALL THE NECESSARY PREPARATION FOR THE ELABORATE CEREMONY WAS COMPLETE


ON AN
APPROPRIATELY
AUSPICIOUS DAY,
THE CEREMONY
WAS CARRIED OUT
IN THE PRESENCE
OF ALL MINISTERS,
OFFICERS, AND
PALACE
ATTENDANTS.

ATOP OF THE ALTAR, EMPEROR XIAN READ ALOUD HIS DECREE OF ABDICATION FOR ALL TO HEAR

I HUMBLY ACCEPT THE SEAL AND DECREE.

I PRESENT TO YOU THE IMPERIAL SEAL, THE SYMBOL OF IMPERIAL AUTHORITY.


HAVING ACCEPTED THE SEAL FROM EMPEROR XIAN, I WILL NOW SUCCEED AFTER HIM. FROM TODAY, I AM YOUR EMPEROR!
LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!
LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!
I HEREBY PROCLAIM THE NEW NAME OF THE EMPIRE AS "GREAT WEI" AND THE START OF A NEW ERA TITLED, "YELLOW DAWN!"








JUST AS TWO SUNS CANNOT EXIST IN ONE SKY, TWO EMPERORS CANNOT REIGN IN ONE REALM.


LIU XIE.


IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT YOU NOW KNEEL BEFORE THE NEW EMPEROR AND RECEIVE HIS ORDER.

PLEASE GO RIGHT AHEAD.

I HEREBY GRANT YOU THE TITLE, DUKE OF SHANYANG. YOU ARE TO LIVE THERE CONTENT FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

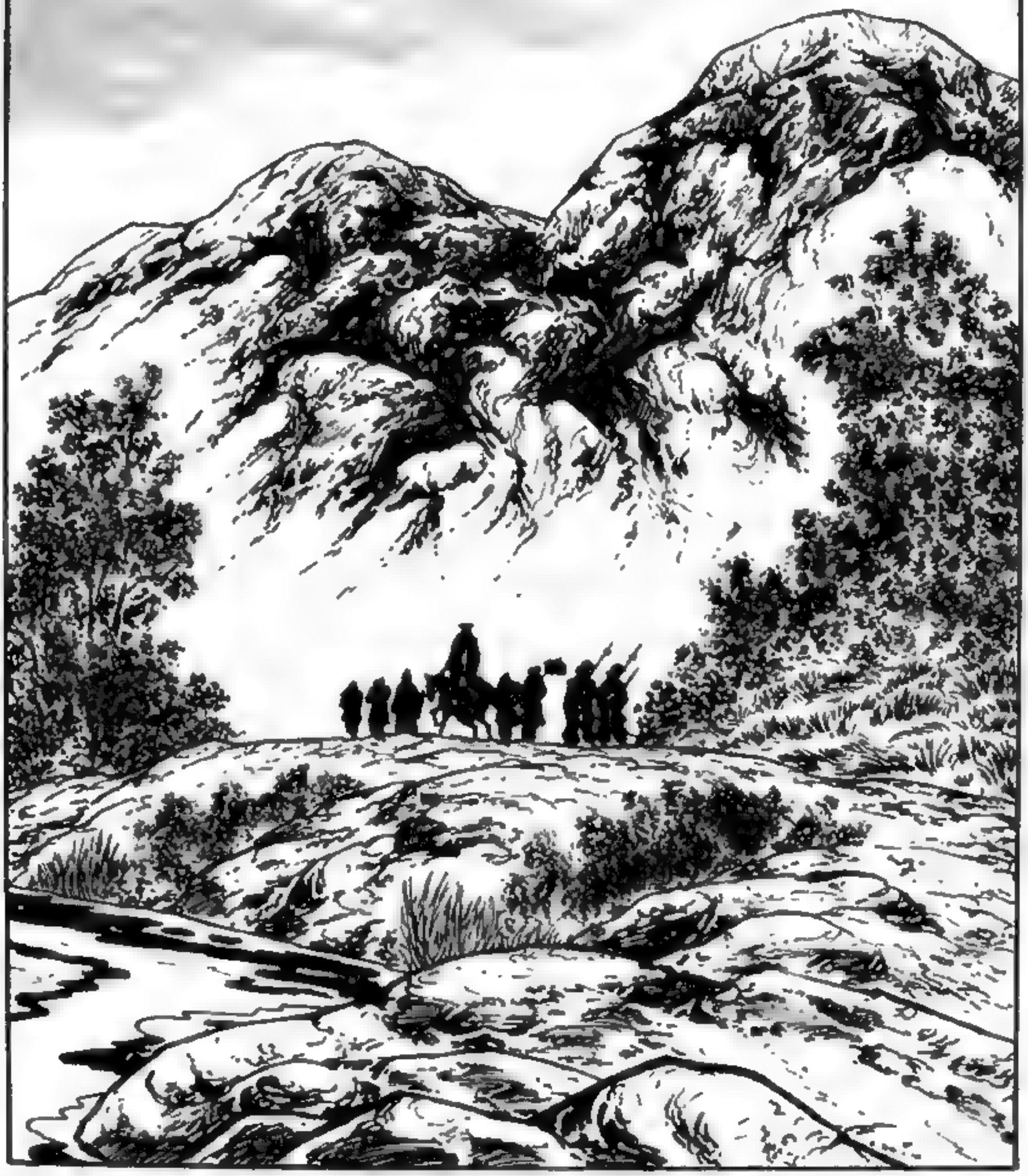
YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR ORDERS PLEASE...

YES.

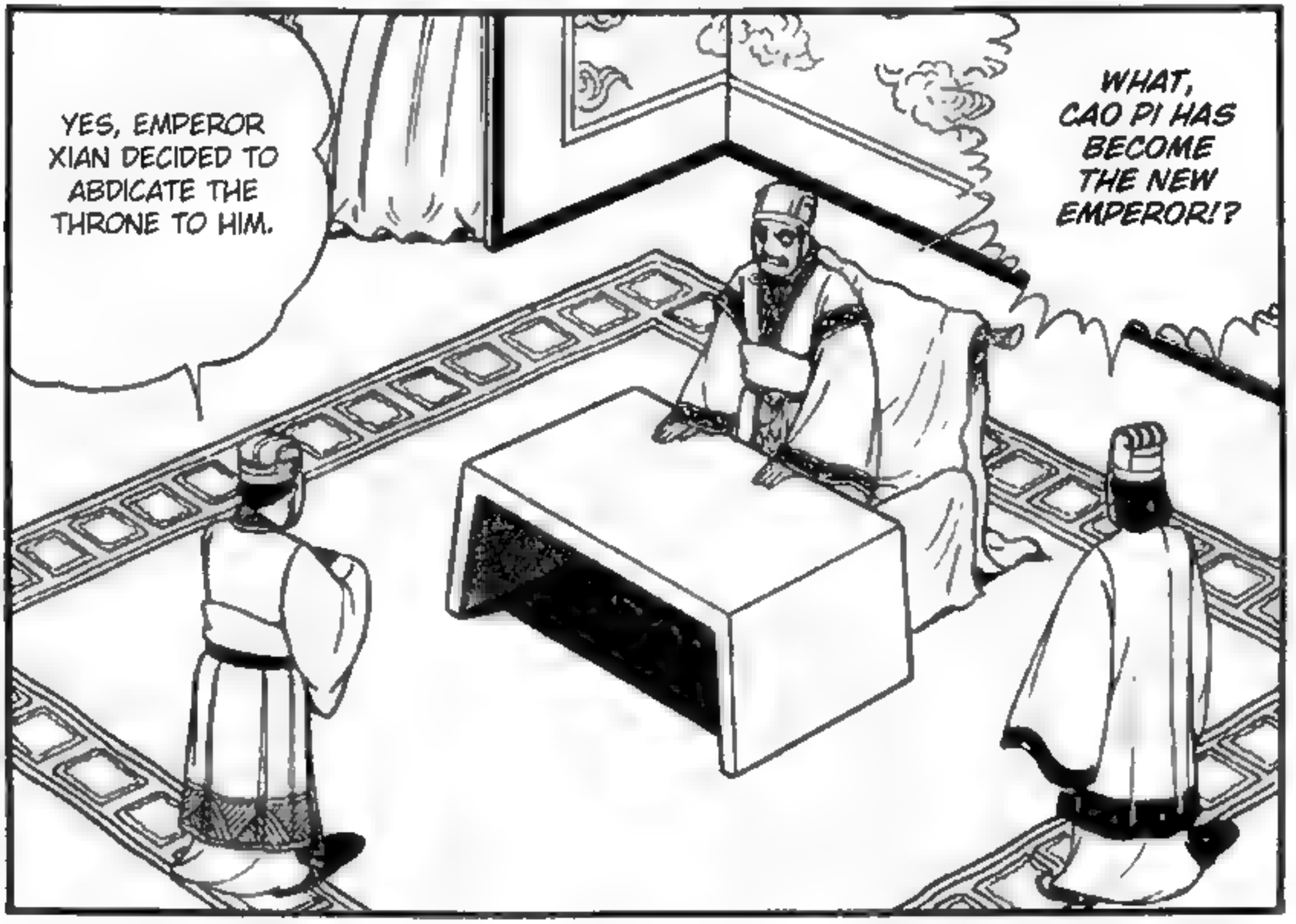

IN TIMES PAST, IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A NEW SOVEREIGN TO ESTABLISH HIS HOUSEHOLD BY ELIMINATING THE FORMER. YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL AT HIS MAJESTY'S BENEVOLENCE IN NOT ONLY SPARING YOUR LIFE, BUT GRANTING YOU THE TITLE, DUKE OF SHANYANG.
YES.
REPAY HIS MAJESTY'S GENEROSITY BY LIVING THERE QUIETLY WITHOUT STIRRING UP ANY TROUBLE.



AND WITH THAT, THE FORMER EMPEROR LEFT FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE, ACCOMPANIED BY ONLY A FEW ATTENDANTS.




CHENGDU


YES, EMPEROR XIAN DECIDED TO ABDICATE THE THRONE TO HIM.
WHAT, CAO PI HAS BECOME THE NEW EMPEROR!?

HE'S BEEN CHASED OUT OF THE CAPITAL AFTER HAVING BEEN GIVEN A NEW POST.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY!?

ABDICATED!? HE CLEARLY STOLE THE THRONE!

THE WHOLE REASON I SWORE AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI DECADES AGO WAS TO RESTORE THE DYNASTY.

HOW HEART-BREAKING...

WE BRAVED MANY BATTLFIELDS AND WATCHED THE DEATHS OF MANY COMRADES ALL FOR THAT PURPOSE...

TO RESTORE THE EMPEROR HIS RIGHTFUL AUTHORITY, SO THAT THE REALM COULD BE GOVERNED AS PEACEFULLY IN PAST AGES...

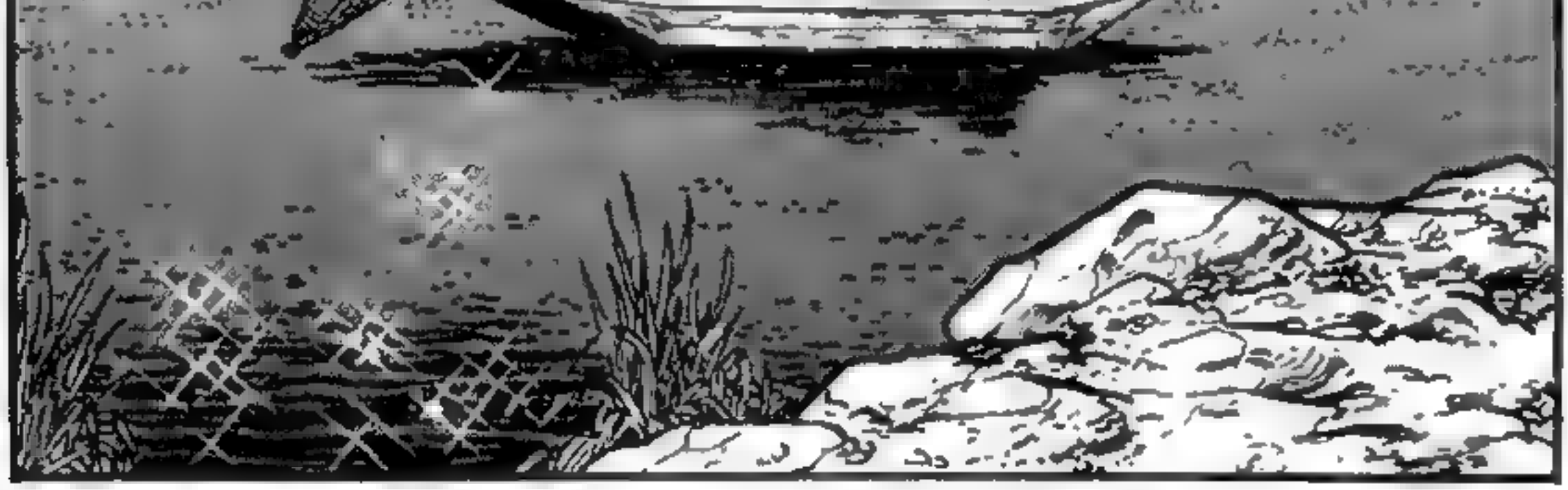
THIS IS MY FAULT... I WAS TOO INCAPABLE...

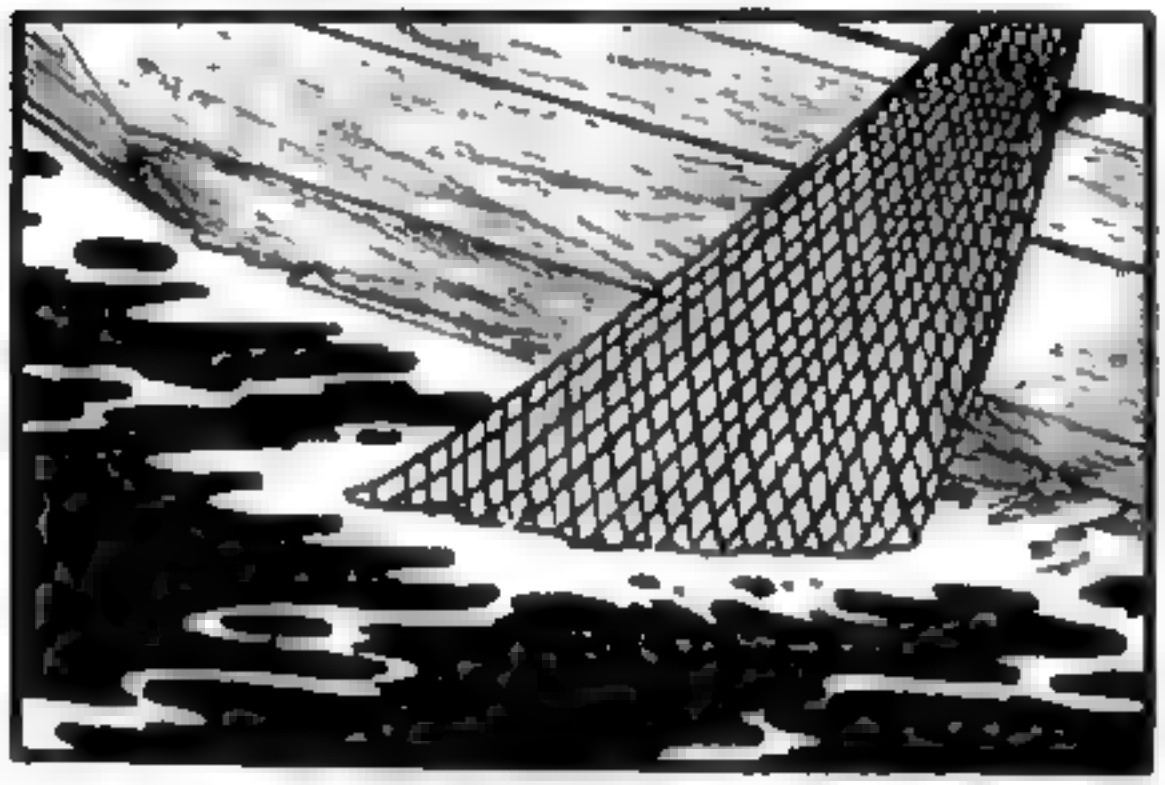
THE ENTIRE PURPOSE IN MY LIFE... CRUMBLED BEFORE MY EYES...


THE DEATHS OF GUAN YU, LIU FENG, AND NOW THE IMPERIAL DYNASTY ALL HAPPENING IN QUICK SUCCESSION GAVE LIU BEI A TREMENDOUS SHOCK.


THE SHOCK FORCED LIU BEI ONTO A SICKBED FOR SEVERAL DAYS

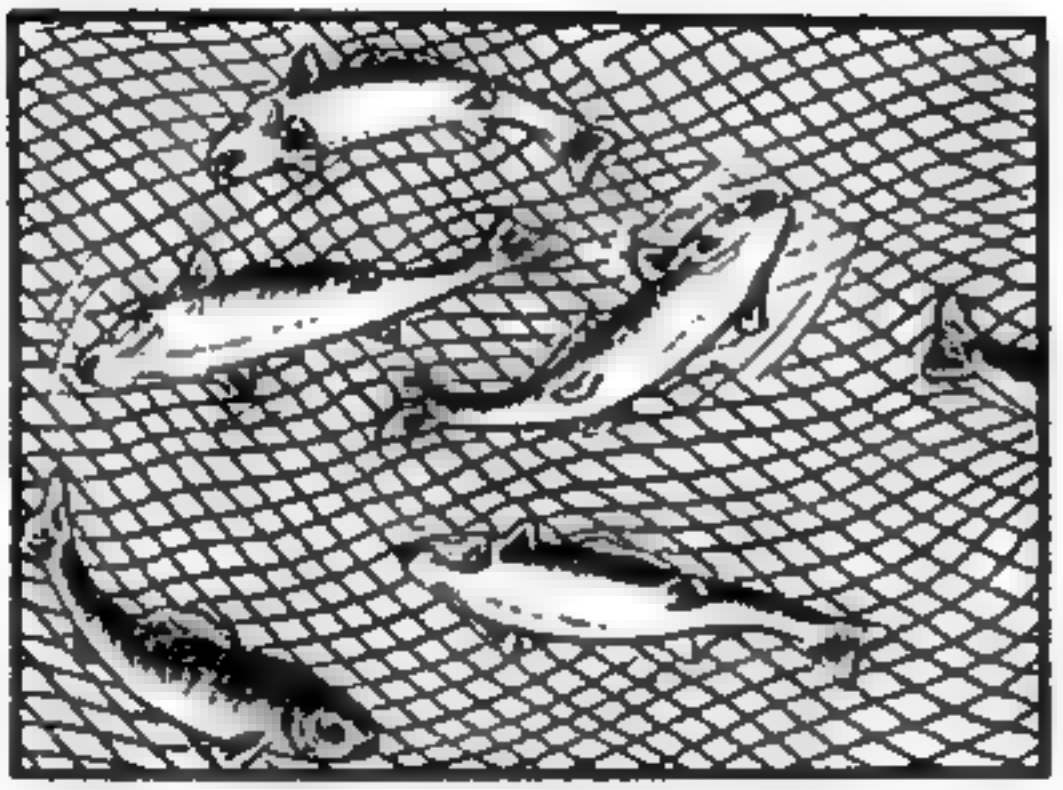

3RD
MONTH
OF THE
FOLLOW-
ING YEAR



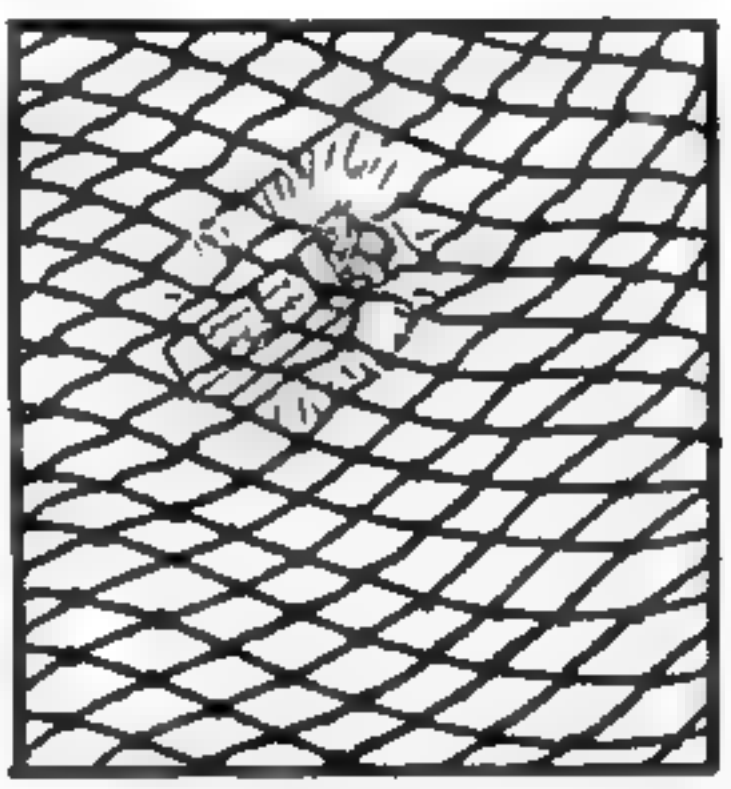





HM?



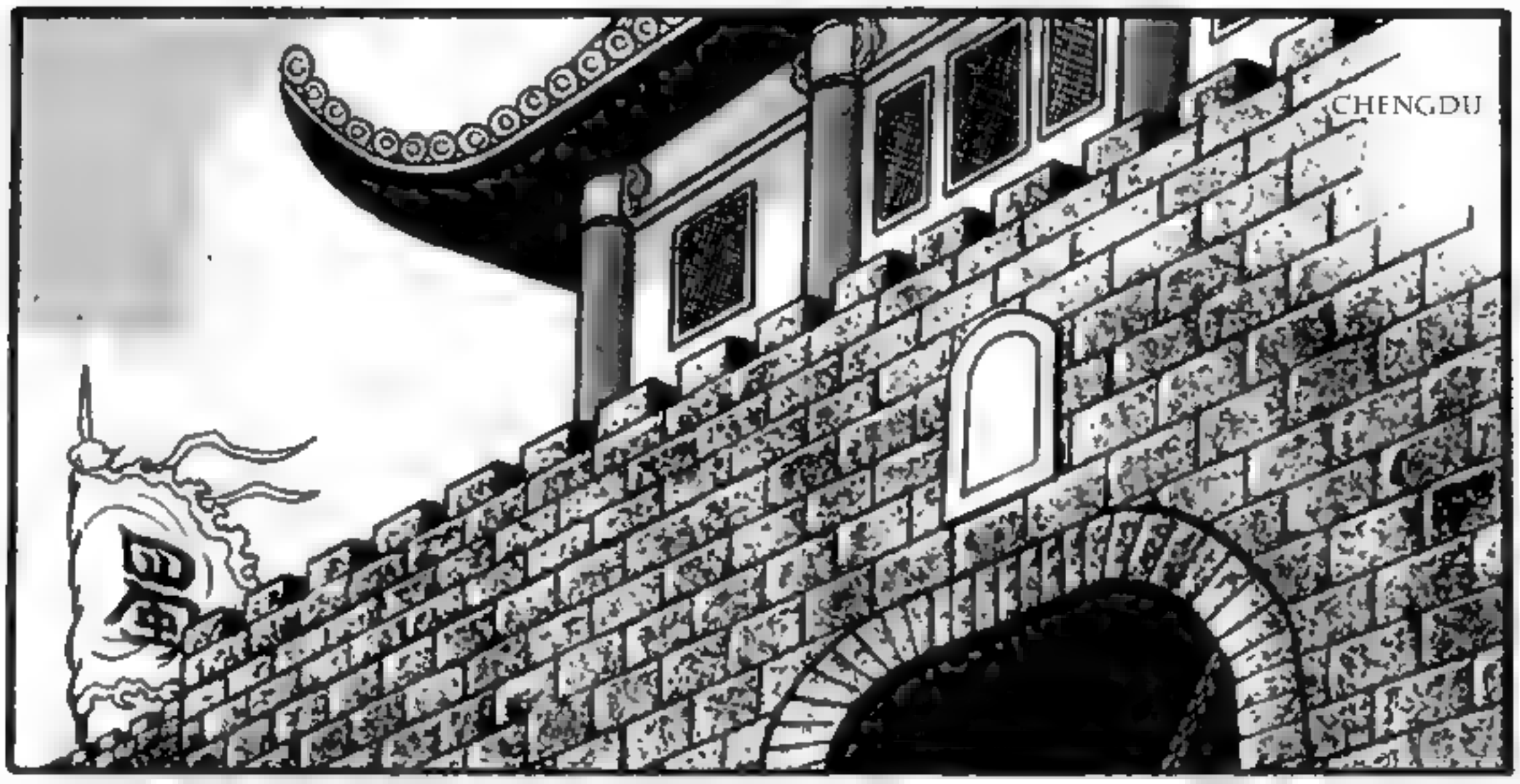

WHAT'S THIS?




SEEING AS HOW IT'S MADE FROM PURE JADE, THIS MUST BE SOME PRICELESS ITEM...


受命於天
既壽永昌
"HAVING RECEIVED THE MANDATE FROM HEAVEN, MAY A LONG, PROSPEROUS LIFE BE BESTOWED..."


AH, PERHAPS I SHOULD PRESENT IT TO THE KING OF HANZHONG.


CHENGDU


?
SIR!


WHAT IS IT?
A FISHERMAN FROM XIANGYANG SAID HE CAUGHT A VALUABLE ITEM IN HIS NET, AND CAME BY TO PRESENT IT TO THE KING OF HANZHONG.

HM!?

TO THINK A FISHERMAN FOUND THIS IN A RIVER... AH, I SEE! IT MUST BE THE ONE THAT WAS LOST ALL THIS TIME SINCE THE GREAT PANIC IN LUOYANG LONG AGO!

THIS IS THE IMPERIAL JADE SEAL!

YES, SIR.

AND ASSEMBLE ALL THE OFFICERS AT ONCE!

SEE TO IT THAT THE FISHERMAN IS REWARDED LAVISHLY.

YES, BUT THAT MUST BE A REPLACEMENT SEAL THEY SECRETLY MADE AFTER THE LOSS OF THE GENUINE ONE.

BUT I THOUGHT EMPEROR XIAN RECENTLY HANDED OVER THE IMPERIAL SEAL TO CAO PI?

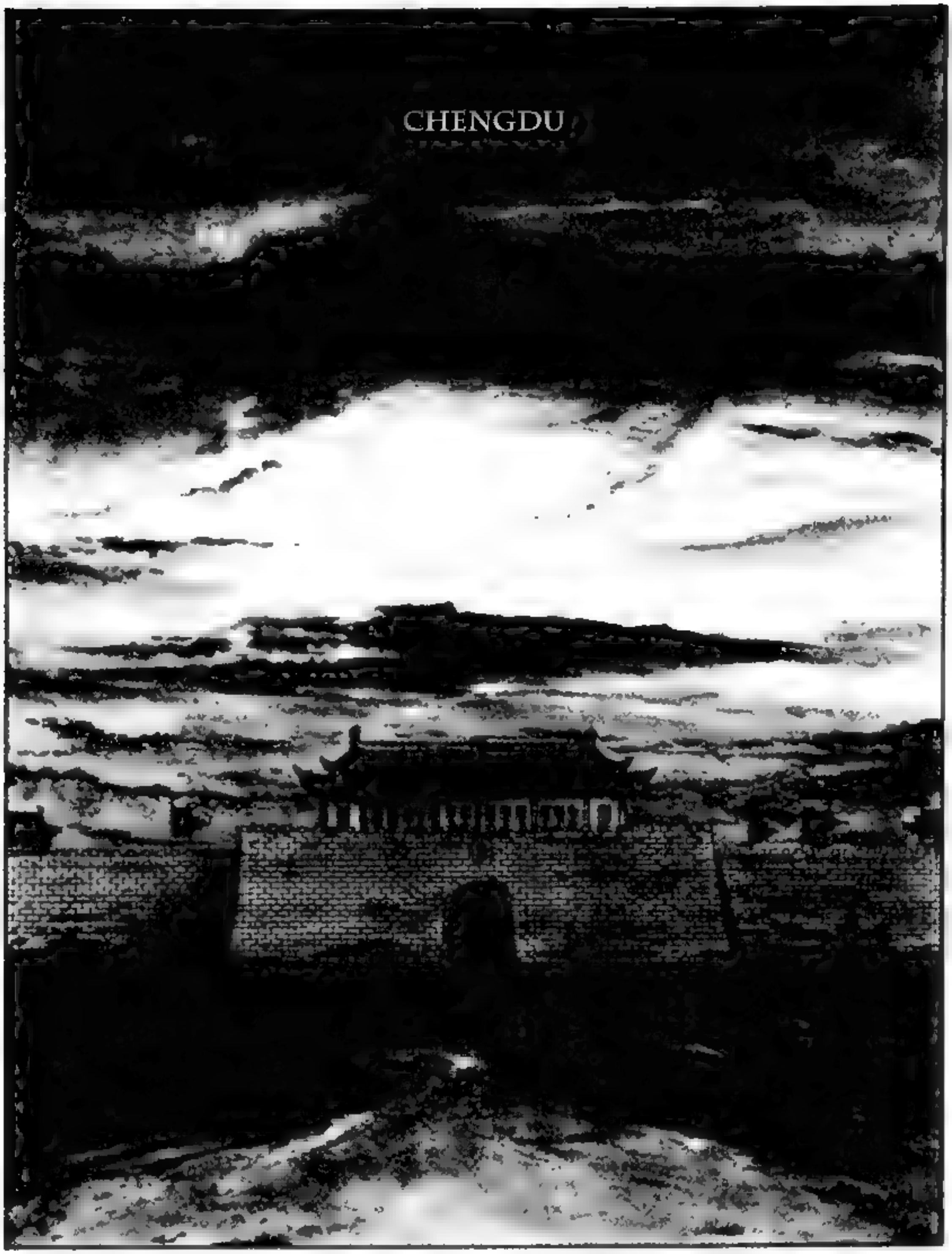
YES, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

THEN THAT IS THE GENUINE ARTICLE?

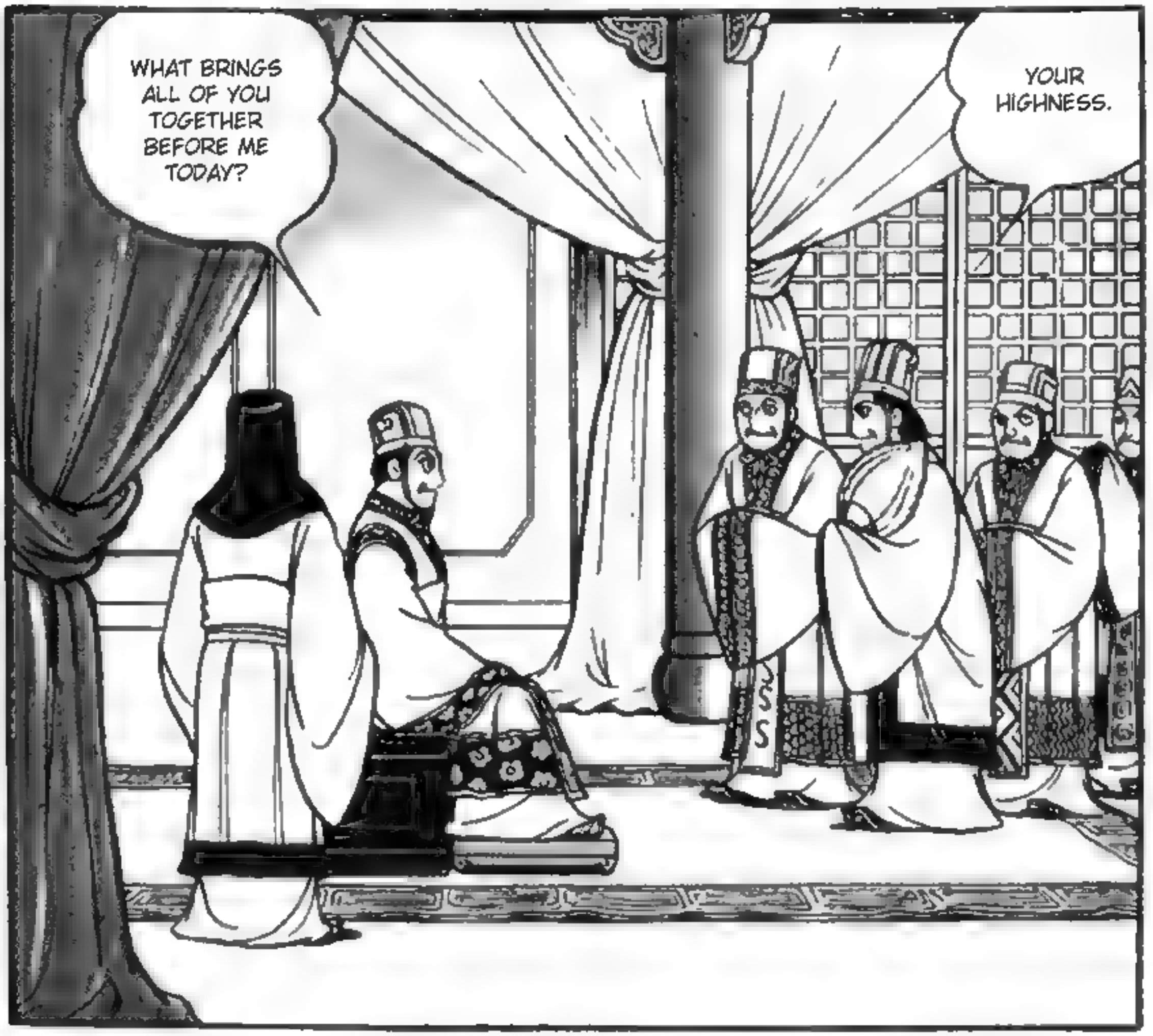
THE BEARER OF THIS SEAL HAS THE RIGHT TO BECOME THE EMPEROR...


IT WAS AN INCIDENT THAT NO ONE COULD HAVE EXPECTED. THE IMPERIAL JADE SEAL, WHICH FOR CENTURIES HAD SYMBOLIZED THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN, HAD NOW FOUND ITS WAY TO LIU BEI'S HANDS.

EMPEROR OF SHU






WHAT BRINGS ALL OF YOU TOGETHER BEFORE ME TODAY?
YOUR HIGHNESS.

AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR HIGHNESS TO BECOME EMPEROR AND CONSOLE YOUR IMPERIAL ANCESTORS.

WE COME BEFORE YOUR HIGHNESS TO INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR RESOLVE.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO BRING THAT TOPIC BEFORE ME!?

ENOUGH! DO YOU MEN WISH FOR ME TO BE SLANDERED BY FUTURE GENERATIONS AS DISLOYAL AND DISHONOURABLE!?

THE FACT THAT THE IMPERIAL SEAL HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO YOUR HANDS IS A SIGN FROM THE HEAVENS. IN LIGHT OF CAO PI'S USURPATION, NOW IS THE TIME FOR A LEGITIMATE MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY TO BECOME EMPEROR.

WHEREAS YOU ARE A LEGITIMATE MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY. WHY WOULD IT BE MORALLY WRONG FOR YOU TO ACCEPT THE THRONE?

YOUR ASCENDANCE TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE WILL IN NO WAY BE COMPARABLE TO CAO PI'S USURPATION. THE WHOLE WORLD CAN SEE HIS CLAIM WAS UNJUST,

TRUE, I MAY BE A DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING, BUT I AM FIRST AND FOREMOST A SERVANT OF HAN! MOREOVER, AS I STILL LACK THE NECESSARY VIRTUES EXPECTED OF AN EMPEROR, HOW WOULD MY ASSUMPTION OF THE THRONE BE ANY DIFFERENT FROM CAO PI'S USURPATION!?

DO NOT BRING THIS TOPIC BEFORE ME AGAIN!

.....

FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER WARDS, KONGMING DID NOT SHOW UP TO COURT, CLAIMING HE WAS ILL.

UNFORTUNATELY SO, YOUR HIGHNESS.

DID KONGMING NOT COME TODAY AS WELL?

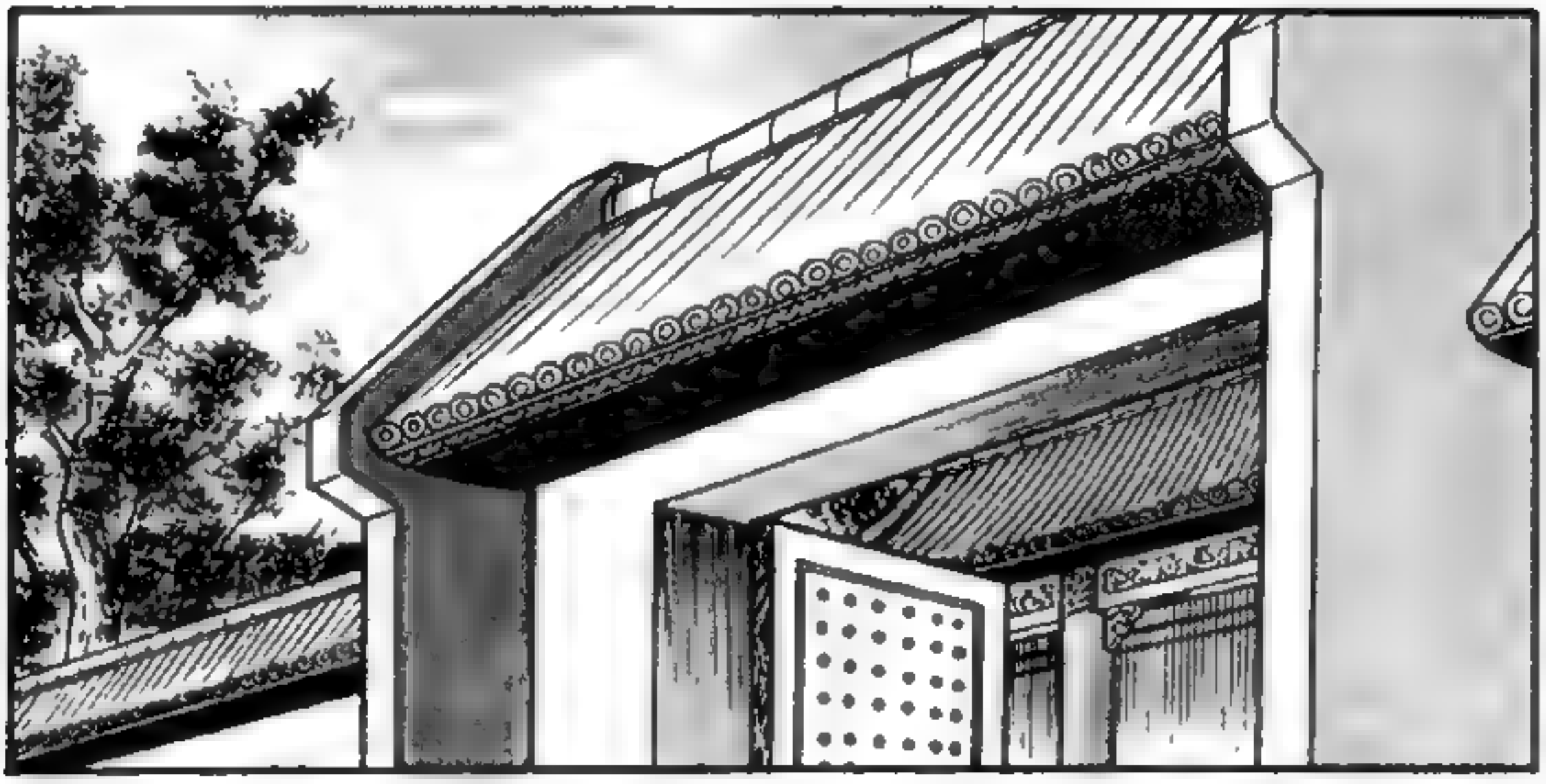
WHERE WILL YOU BE HEADING, SIR?

PREPARE MY CHARIOT AT ONCE.

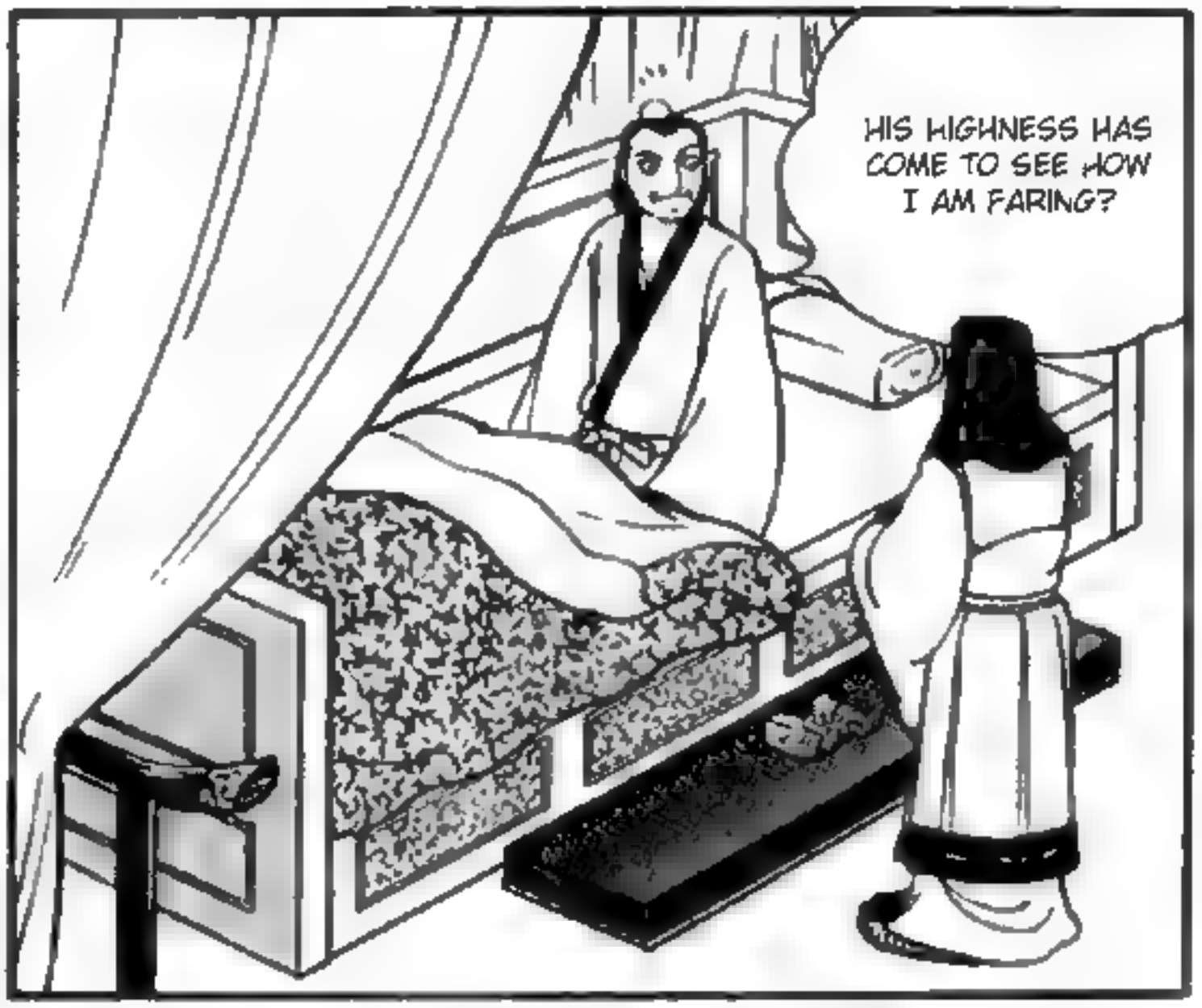
IS HIS ILLNESS THAT SERIOUS?


YES, SIR.


I MUST PAY A VISIT TO KONGMING'S HOUSE. HIS ILLNESS IS WORRYING ME.




WELL I CAN'T MEET HIM LYING ON MY BED.


HIS HIGHNESS HAS COME TO SEE HOW I AM FARING?





AH, I SEE YOU'RE UP. ARE YOU FEELING BETTER THEN?

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL YOUR HIGHNESS HAS PERSONALLY VISITED MY HUMBLE HOME.

WHAT ELSE COULD I BE REFERRING TO?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT IS NOT AN ILLNESS OF THE BODY THAT I HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM, BUT AN ILLNESS OF THE HEART.

FOR OVER A DECADE, I HAVE LOYALLY SERVED YOUR HIGHNESS, AND AT LONG LAST, I HAVE SEEN TO IT THAT THE FOUNDATION OF A STRONG STATE HAS COME UNDER YOUR CONTROL.

YES.

YOU MEAN MY RESPONSE TO YOUR... SUGGESTION THE OTHER DAY?

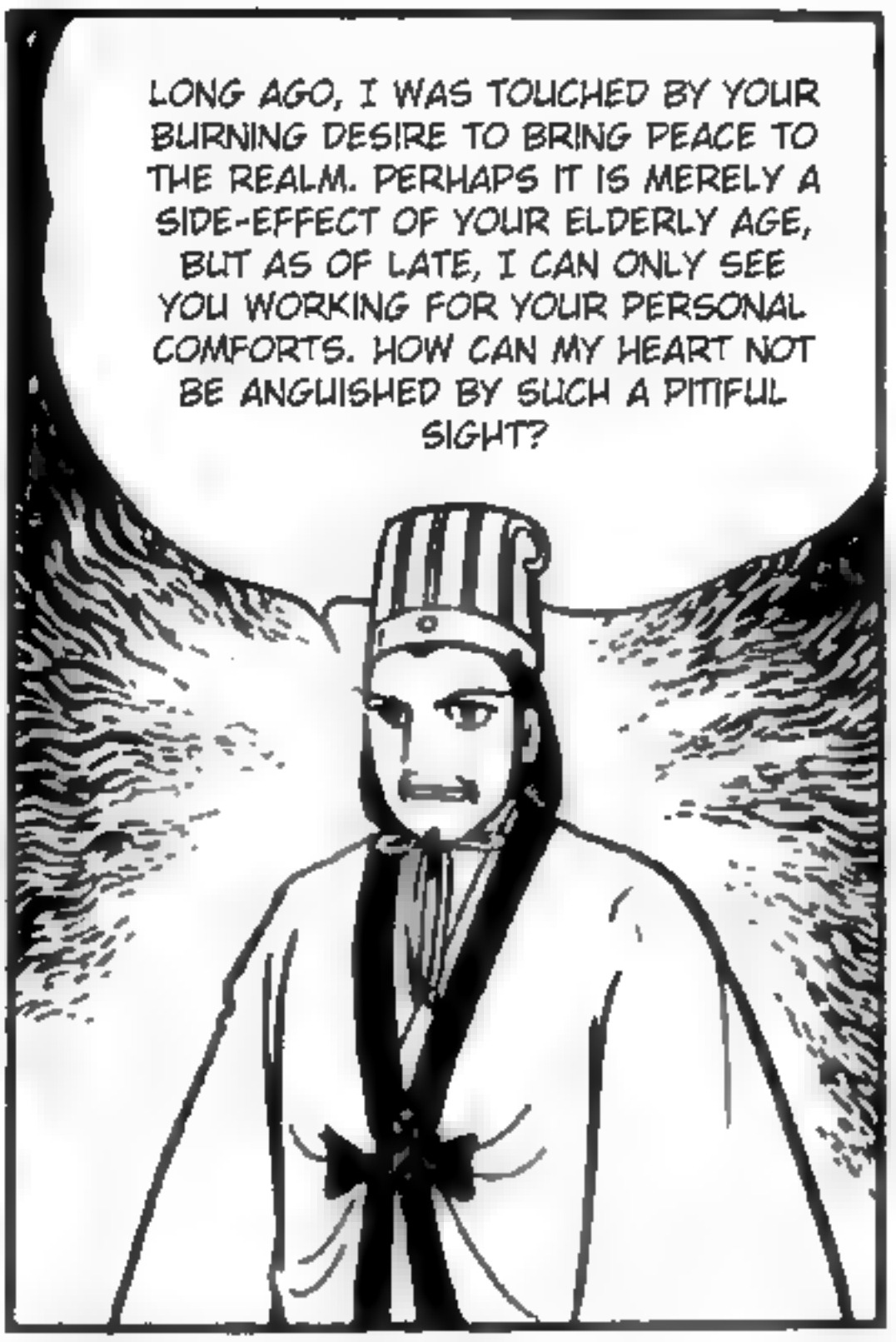
BUT I DID NOT LEAVE MY HUT SO MANY YEARS AGO TO MERELY STOP AT THAT. I CHOSE TO ACCEPT YOU AS MY LORD BECAUSE I JUDGED THAT YOU WERE A MAN CAPABLE OF SO MUCH MORE.

TALENTS ALONE CANNOT BRING SUCH DREAMS TO FRUITION. ONE MUST BE CHOSEN BY THE HEAVENS AND BEAR ITS MANDATE TO BE CAPABLE OF COMPLETING SUCH GRAND AMBITIONS. LONG HAVE I BELIEVED YOU WERE THAT VERY MAN, CHOSEN BY HEAVEN.

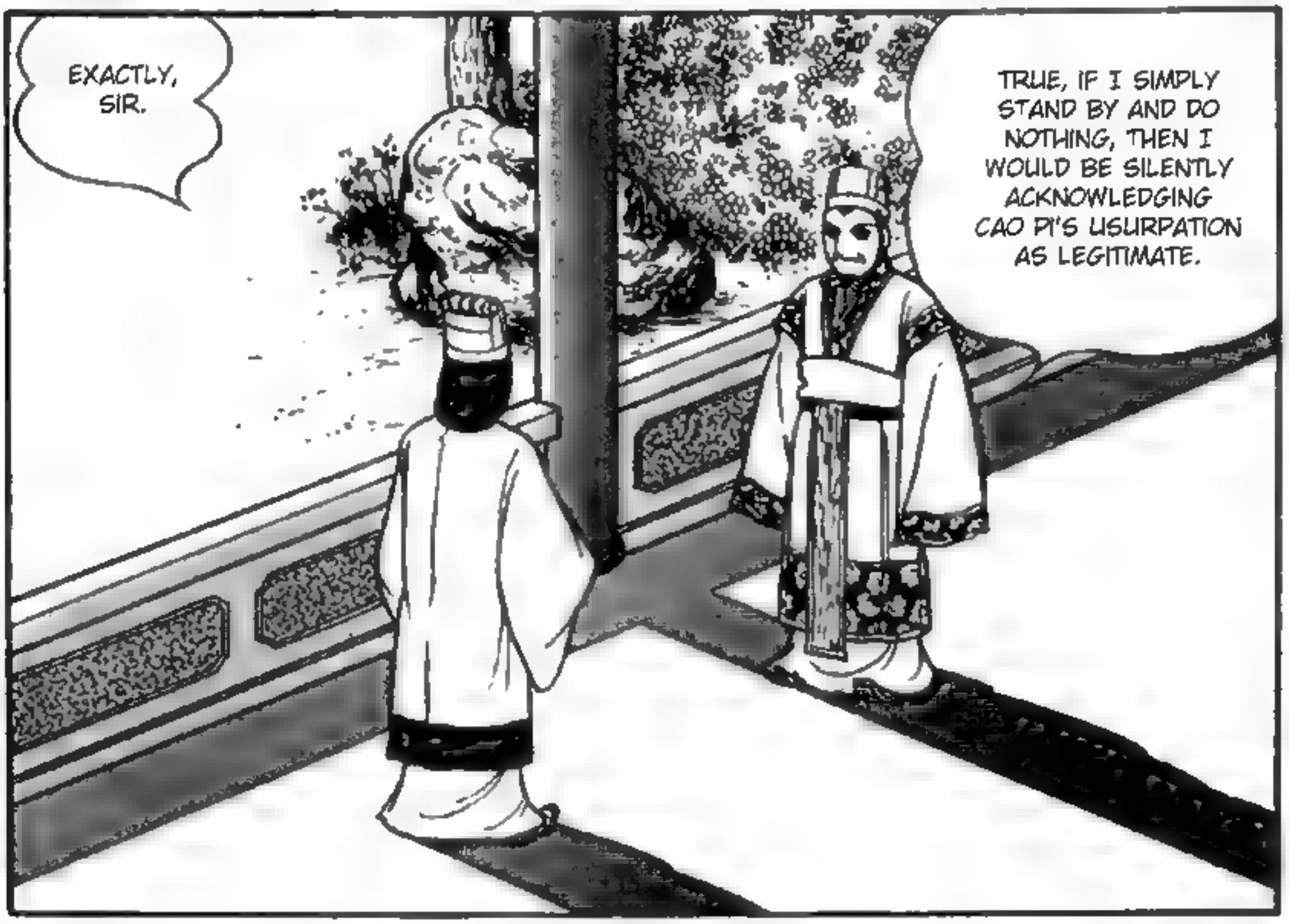
I CHOSE YOU AS MY LORD BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU COULD PACIFY THE LONG-DISORDERED REALM AND SERVE AS THE FOUNDATION OF A REJUVENATED, PEACEFUL ERA.

BUT NOW, I SEE YOU PUT YOUR PERSONAL REPUTATION OVER THE FATE OF THE WHOLE REALM.




LONG AGO, I WAS TOUCHED BY YOUR BURNING DESIRE TO BRING PEACE TO THE REALM. PERHAPS IT IS MERELY A SIDE-EFFECT OF YOUR ELDERLY AGE, BUT AS OF LATE, I CAN ONLY SEE YOU WORKING FOR YOUR PERSONAL COMFORTS. HOW CAN MY HEART NOT BE ANGUISHED BY SUCH A PITIFUL SIGHT?


I SEE. MY THOUGHTS WERE FAR TOO SHALLOW.


EXACTLY, SIR.
TRUE, IF I SIMPLY STAND BY AND DO NOTHING, THEN I WOULD BE SILENTLY ACKNOWLEDGING CAO PI'S USURPATION AS LEGITIMATE.


THANK YOU FOR OPENING MY EYES. ONCE AGAIN, I HAD MISSED THE FOREST FOR THE TREES.


IT WOULD RENDER ALL OUR EFFORTS TO FIGHT CAO CAO IN THE PAST AS POINTLESS.

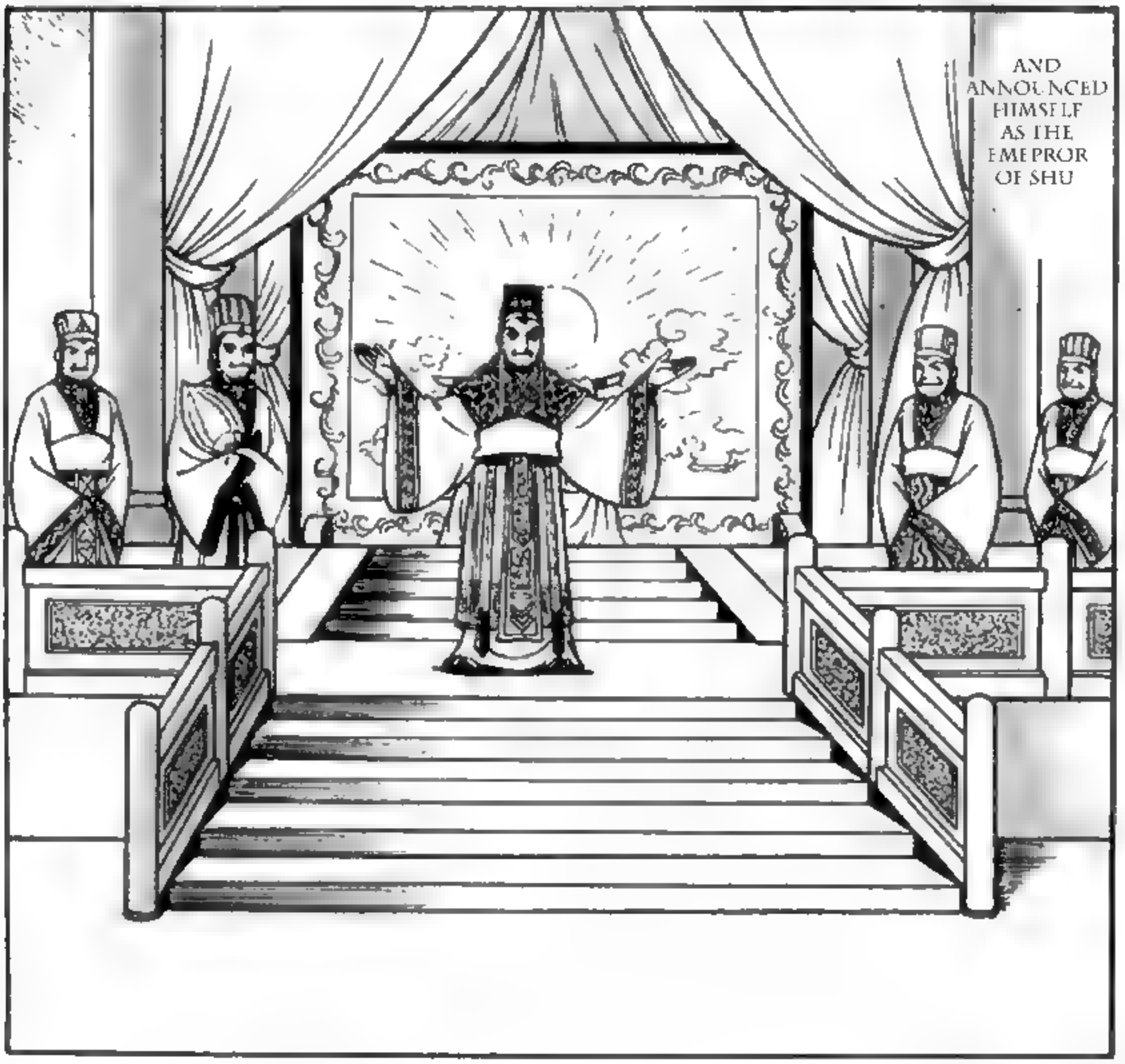

YES, AND AS EMPEROR, SEE TO IT THAT YOUR REALM IS UNITED ONCE MORE.
I WILL BECOME EMPEROR TO ANNOUNCE TO THE HEAVENS THAT I WILL NOT ACCEPT CAO PI'S ASCENDANCE TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE.

26TH YEAR
OF REBUILT
TRANQUILITY
(221 A.D.)

ON TOP OF
AN ALTAR
BUILT ON
MT WUDAN,

A CEREMONY
WAS
CARRIED
OUT IN
FRONT OF
ALL THE
MINISTERS
OF SHU


LIU BEI ACCEPTED THE IMPERIAL SEAL,


AND ANNOUNCED HIMSELF AS THE EMEPROR OF SHU


THE ONCE IRON CLAD RULE, "THERE CAN EXIST NO TWO EMPERORS IN ONE REALM UNDER THE HEAVENS," WAS EXPLICITLY VIOLATED
A NEW ERA WAS PROCLAIMED, NAMED, "MANIFEST MIGHT." THUS, THERE NOW EXISTED AN EMPEROR OF WEI AND AN EMPEROR OF SHU IN THE REALM FORMERLY BELONGING TO HAN.

ZHANG FEI'S DEMISE


I THUS INTEND TO MOUNT AN INVASION ON WU.
AMONG THE SEVERAL TASKS I MUST COMPLETE BEFORE MY DEATH, FEW ARE AS PRESSING TO ME AS AVENGING THE DEATH OF MY SWORN BROTHER, GUAN YU.

YES, VOICE YOUR OPINIONS FREELY, ZHAO ZILONG.

ALLOW ME TO INTER-JECT, SIR.

ABSOLUTELY NOT! NOT ONLY HAS SUN QUAN DARED TO SLAY MY BROTHER, BUT THE TRAITORS FU SHIREN AND MI FANG ARE CONTENTEDLY LIVING OUT THE REST OF THEIR DAYS IN WU! HOW CAN I CALL MYSELF EMPEROR IF I ALLOW SUCH EVIL-DOERS TO ROAM UNCHECKED!?

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ATTACK WU. IF WE SHOULD ATTACK ANYONE, IT SHOULD BE WEI. IF WEI CAN BE DESTROYED, THEN WU WILL INEVITABLY SUBMIT TO YOUR WILL. HOWEVER, AN ATTACK ON WU WILL ONLY BRING ABOUT A RENEWED WEI-WU ALLIANCE WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONTEND WITH.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S QUEST FOR AVENGING GUAN YU'S DEATH IS A PERSONAL MATTER. AS EMPEROR, HOWEVER, YOU CANNOT PUT PERSONAL MATTERS OVER THOSE OF THE ENTIRE REALM.

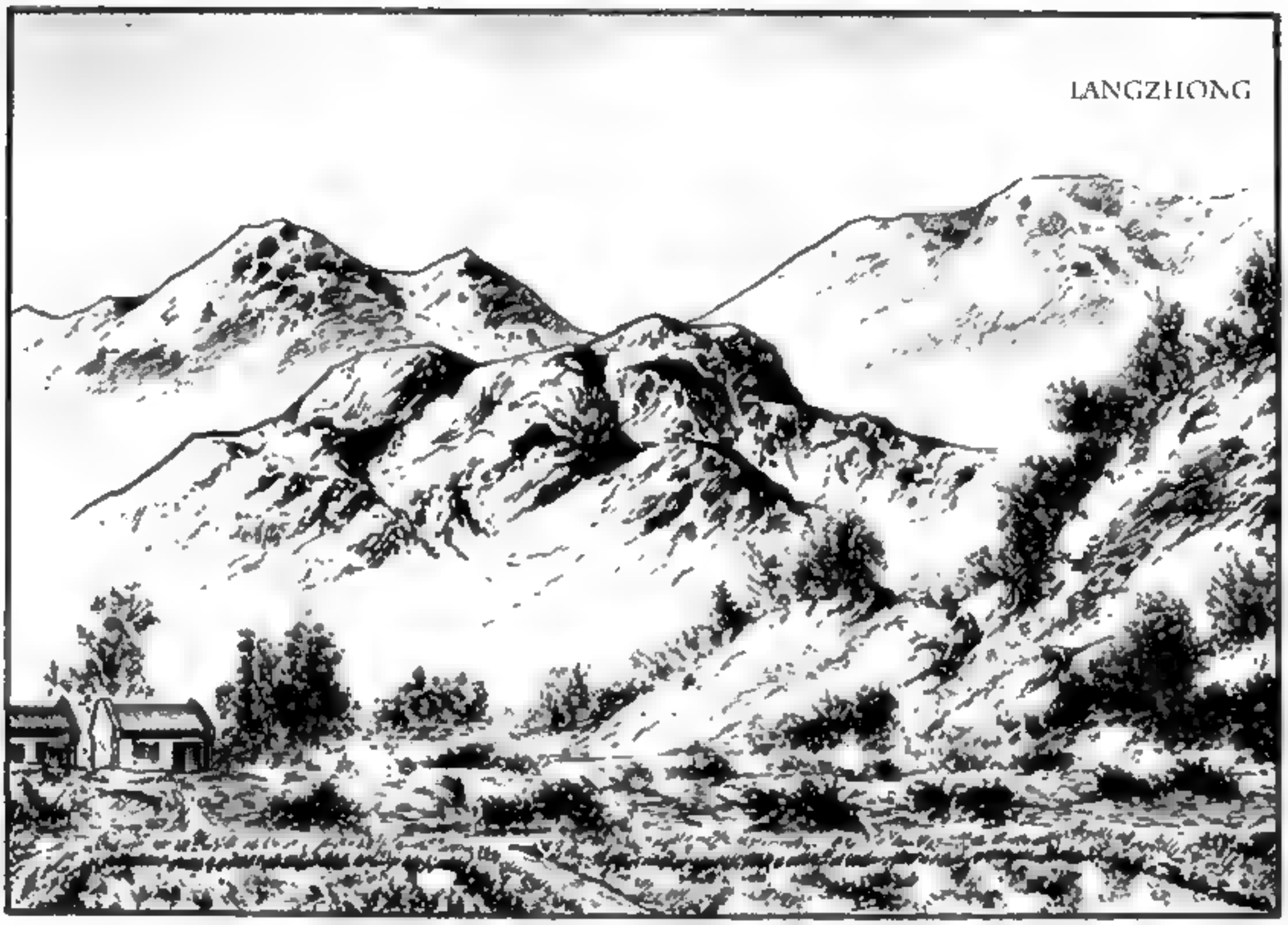
MOREOVER, I BELIEVE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY FOR A MAJOR WAR, CONSIDERING YOUR RECENT ENTHRONEMENT.

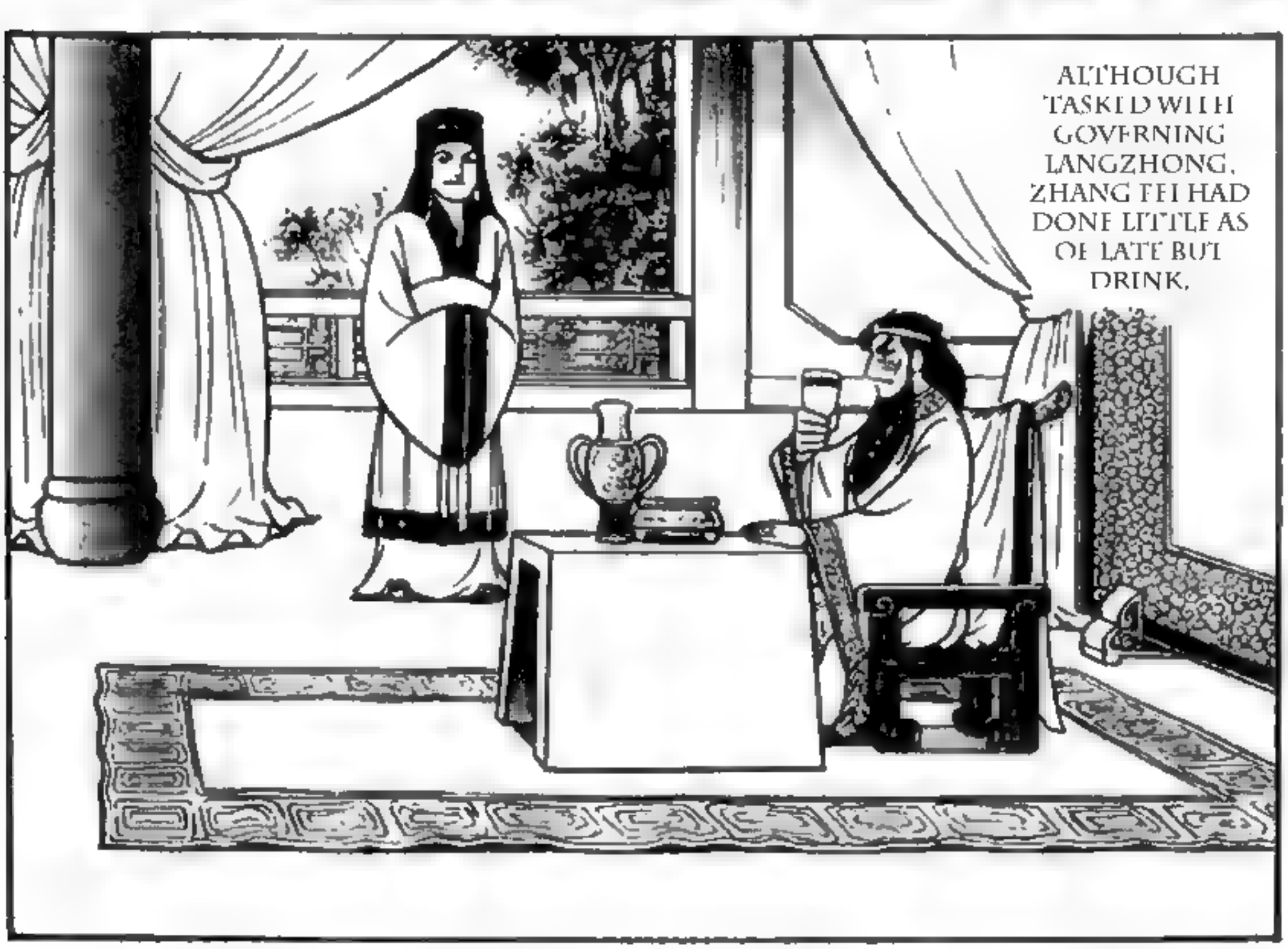
I AM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH ZHAO ZILONG.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK, KONG-MING?

HMM... EVEN YOU THINK AN ATTACK ON WU IS MERELY SERVING MY OWN PRIVATE WISHES...?

I URGE YOUR MAJESTY TO CAREFULLY RECONSIDER.


LANGZHONG


ALTHOUGH TASKED WITH GOVERNING LANGZHONG, ZHANG FEI HAD DONE LITTLE AS OF LATE BUT DRINK.

WHY WON'T HIS MAJESTY STILL NOT AVENGE GUAN YU?

THE REASON WAS OF COURSE, GUAN YU'S DEATH

HM?

DID WE NOT SWEAR TO LIVE AND DIE TOGETHER? WERE WE NOT INSEPARABLE BROTHERS WHO'VE SHARED ALL JOY AND PAIN? THIS IS SIMPLY DISRESPECTFUL FOR BROTHER GUAN YU, CONSIDERING THE LENGTHS HE WENT TO SERVE HIS MAJESTY.

I'M OUT OF WINE OVER HERE!

COULDN'T YOU THICKHEADS EVEN REALIZE THAT!? BRING ME MORE WINE THIS INSTANT!

IN LIGHT OF GUAN YU'S DEATH AND HIS USUAL TEMPER PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY WHEN DRUNK. ZHANG FEI HAD TAKEN TO FLOGGING ANYONE IF THEY WERE CROSS WITH HIM AS OF LATE

I'LL GO TO CHENGDU AND DIRECTLY PLEAD WITH HIS MAJESTY.

I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE DOING NOTHING FOREVER...

YES, I'M SURE I CAN BRING HIM AROUND TO THE IDEA!

CHENGDU

ZHANG FEI HAS COME?

YOUR MAJESTY.

I COME TODAY FOR A MOST SERIOUS MATTER.

GOOD TO SEE UYOU AGAIN. IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT IN LANGZHONG?

HAS YOUR MAJESTY ALREADY FORGOTTEN OUR OATH OF THE PEACH GARDEN?

MY DEAR BROTHER, I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME. AS BROTHERS OF ONE MIND AND ONE BODY, IT IS OUR DUTY TO ATTACK WU AND AVENGE OUR FALLEN BROTHER SOME DAY.

AS LONG AS GUAN YU'S DEATH GOES UNAVENGED, NO AMOUNT OF PROMOTIONS OR WEALTH WILL EVER SATISFY ME.

YOUR MAJESTY, ALL OF US INCH EVER CLOSER TO DEATH WITH EACH PASSING YEAR.

SOME DAY...?

AS LONG AS YOU ALONE HAVE THE WILL TO AVENGE OUR BROTHER, THEN EVEN IF ALL THE OTHER OFFICERS AND MINISTERS WERE TO STRONGLY DISAPPROVE, I ALONE WILL HELP YOU. PLEASE, YOUR MAJESTY, YOU MUST ACT WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

ZHANG FEI...

I BEG YOU ON MY KNEES!

OHH!

VERY WELL. LET US AVENGE OUR BROTHER'S DEATH WHILE WE ARE STILL ABLE.

YOU'RE RIGHT... ONE NEVER KNOWS IF ONE MIGHT FALL ILL AND DIE THE NEXT DAY.

WU...

YES, HOW CAN I LET OUR BROTHER'S SPIRIT LIE IN ANGUISH?

DO YOU MEAN IT, YOUR MAJESTY?

YES...

HOLD BACK YOUR TEARS. SET OUT FROM LANG-ZHONG WITH AN ARMY AND MARCH SOUTH. I WILL SET OUT FROM JIANGZHOU WITH MY OWN ARMY AND JOIN UP WITH YOU. TOGETHER, WE WILL MOUNT AN INVASION ON WU.

YES.

THEN I SHALL HURRY BACK TO LANGZHONG AND PREPARE MY ARMY.

.....

NOT ONLY IS NOW NOT THE APPROPRIATE TIME FOR SUCH A LARGE INVASION, BUT THE DESTRUCTION OF WEI MUST BE PRIORITIZED ABOVE ALL!

...

THIS IS MADNESS, YOUR MAJESTY!

WHEN I HEARD THE DEATH OF MY BROTHER, I SWORE THAT I SHALL NOT LIVE UNDER THE SAME HEAVENS AS SUN QUAN.

SILENCE! I WILL HEAR NO MORE OBJECTIONS!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR REASONABLE OBJECTIONS AND ALL BUT... PLEASE, ALLOW ME THIS ONE THING AS EMPEROR.

YES.

YOU LIKELY DISAPPROVE AS WELL, CORRECT?

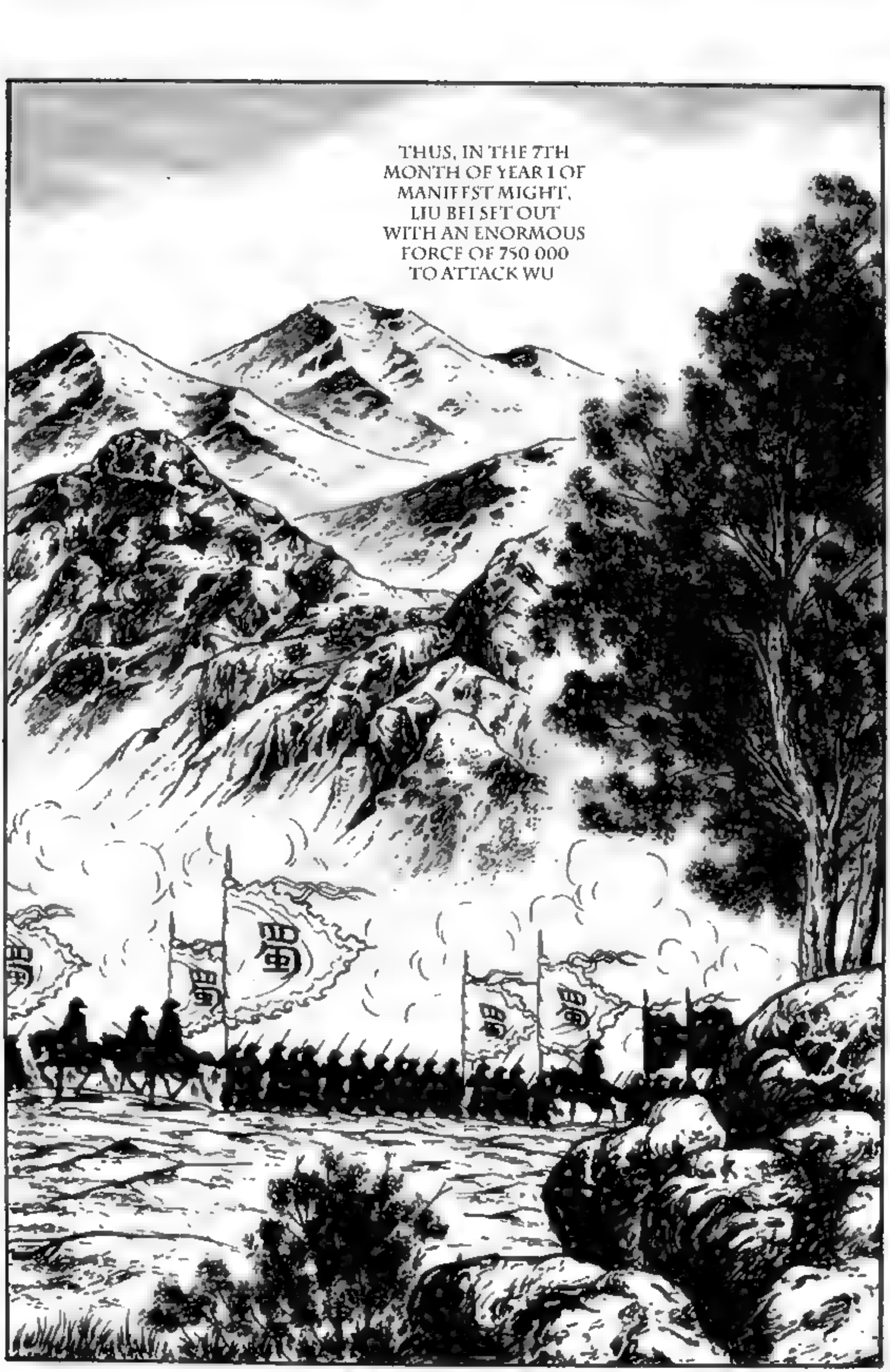
IF YOUR MAJESTY FEELS THAT STRONGLY, THEN AS YOUR LOYAL SERVANT, I HAVE NO PLACE TO OBJECT.

FOR OVER 30 YEARS, MY TWO BROTHERS AND I HAVE STUCK TO THAT FATEFUL OATH WE SWORE IN A PEACH GARDEN. I CANNOT SIMPLY BREAK IT NOW AFTER SO LONG.

PREPARE FOR A FULL-SCALE INVASION OF WU, GENTLEMEN!

YES.

KONGMING, I LEAVE MA CHAO, MA DAI, AND WEI YAN UNDER YOUR CONTROL FOR THE DEFENSE OF HANZHONG WHILE I AM GONE.


THUS, IN THE 7TH
MONTH OF YEAR 1 OF
MANIFEST MIGHT,
LIU BEI SET OUT
WITH AN ENORMOUS
FORCE OF 750 000
TO ATTACK WU


ANGZHONG


YES, SIR?


FAN JIAN!
ZHANG DA!


3 DAYS!?
THIS COMING OFFENSIVE IS TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY BROTHER. AS SUCH, I ORDER YOU TWO TO ENSURE ALL THE BANNERS, ARMOUR, SAILS, AND TENTS BE PAINTED WHITE, THE COLOUR OF MOURNING. YOU HAVE THREE DAYS.

WHAT!?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, GENERAL, 3 DAYS IS MUCH TOO SOON FOR SUCH A LARGE TASK.

YOU ASK ME TO WAIT 10 DAYS!?

I'M AFRAID WE WOULD NEED AT LEAST 10 DAYS.

SILENCE! I'M TO SERVE AS THE VANGUARD ON THE VERY CAMPAIGN TO AVENGE MY BROTHER! I WILL NOT ALLOW EVEN THE SLIGHTEST DELAY!

ASKING FOR WHITE BANNERS IS ONE THING, BUT TO ASK ALL THE ARMOUR, TENTS, AND SAILS FOR OUR WHOLE ARMY AS WELL TO BE WHITE IS AN ENORMOUS TASK.

YOU STILL DARE GRUMBLE!? MEN, TIE THESE TWO UP TO A TREE!

YOU CANNOT ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE, SIR...

SIR!

I'M MERELY FOLLOWING ORDERS.

A-AH!

I'LL DISCIPLINE YOU INSOLENT SLACKERS MYSELF!

SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!

WE MAKE NO EXCUSES FOR LACK OF DILIGENCE! WHAT YOU ARE ASKING FOR SIMPLY CANNOT BE DONE!

ALWAYS TRYING TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT...!

AGH!

A-ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! WE'LL GET IT DONE IN 3 DAYS SOMEHOW!

YES, SIR.

UNTIE THEM.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! ANYTHING CAN BE DONE AS LONG AS YOU SET YOUR MIND TO IT!

Y-YES, SIR.

BUT BE WARNED, YOUR HEADS WILL FLY IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO.




WHO CARES ABOUT BEING HUMILIATED! WE'RE DEAD IF WE CAN'T GET THIS DONE IN 3 DAYS!

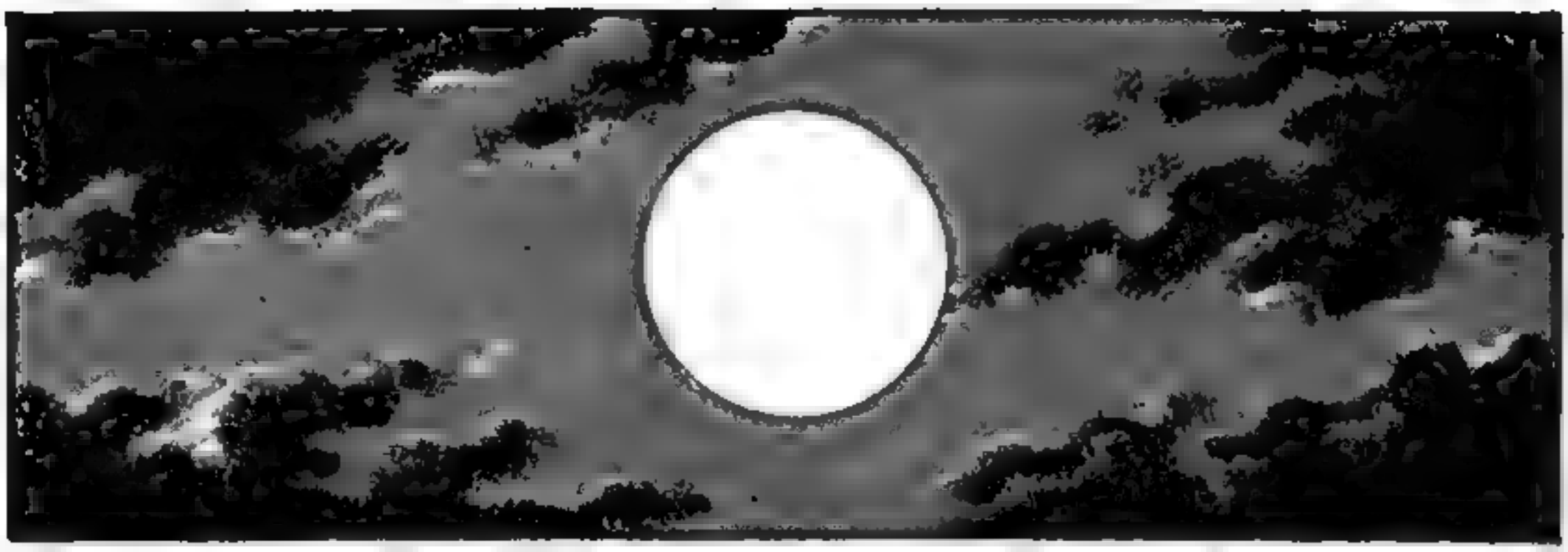

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE HUMILIATED US LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF ALL THE MEN!



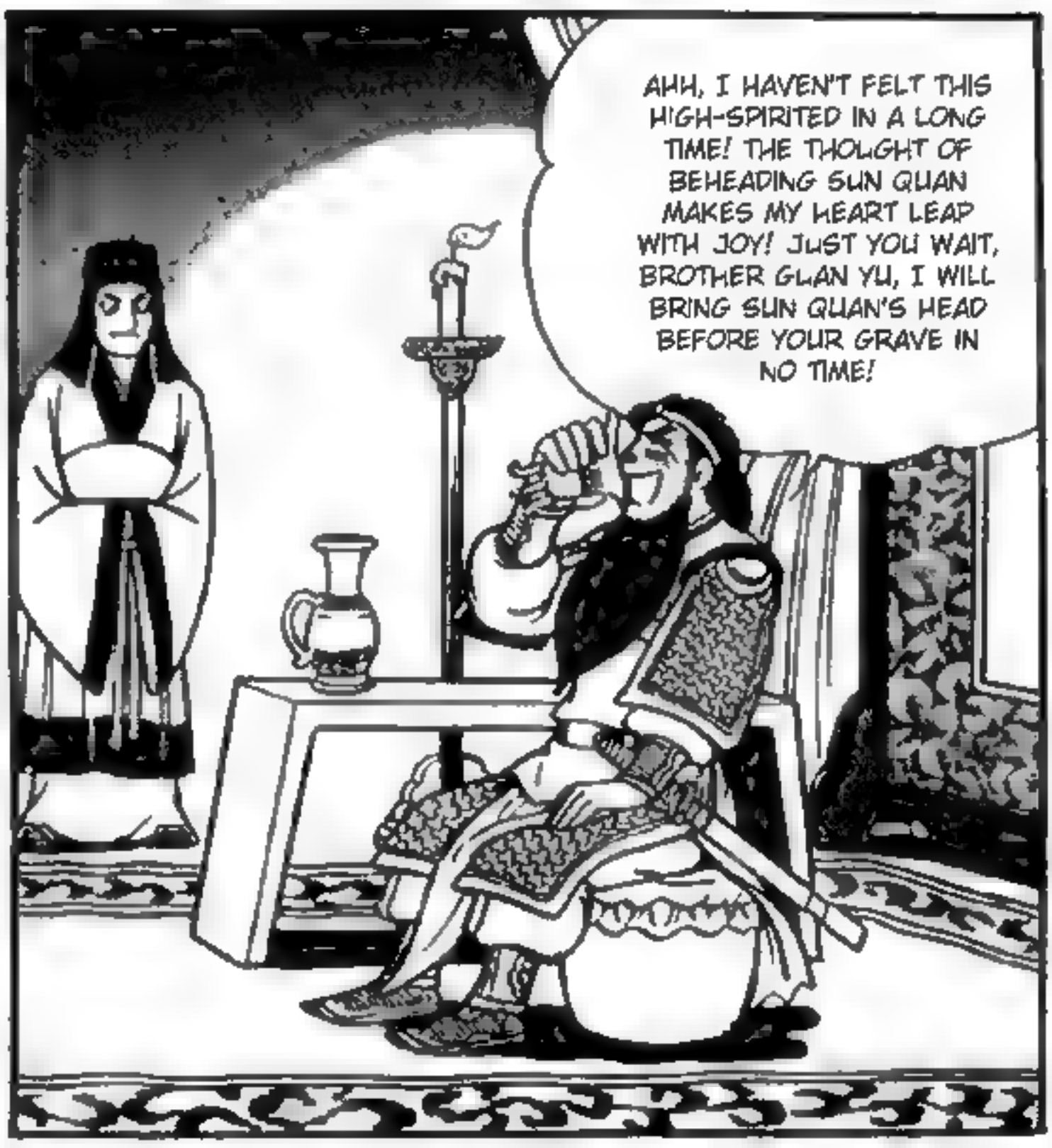

THEN WHAT DO WE DO?
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD EVER DO ALL THAT IN 3 DAYS.


SADLY SO.
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE.


MNN...
WHISPER WHISPER




POUR ME ANOTHER!


AHH, I HAVEN'T FELT THIS HIGH-SPIRITED IN A LONG TIME! THE THOUGHT OF BEHEADING SUN QUAN MAKES MY HEART LEAP WITH JOY! JUST YOU WAIT, BROTHER GUAN YU, I WILL BRING SUN QUAN'S HEAD BEFORE YOUR GRAVE IN NO TIME!


Y-YES, SIR.




EVEN THE WINE TASTES EXCEL-LENT TONIGHT!


HIC!

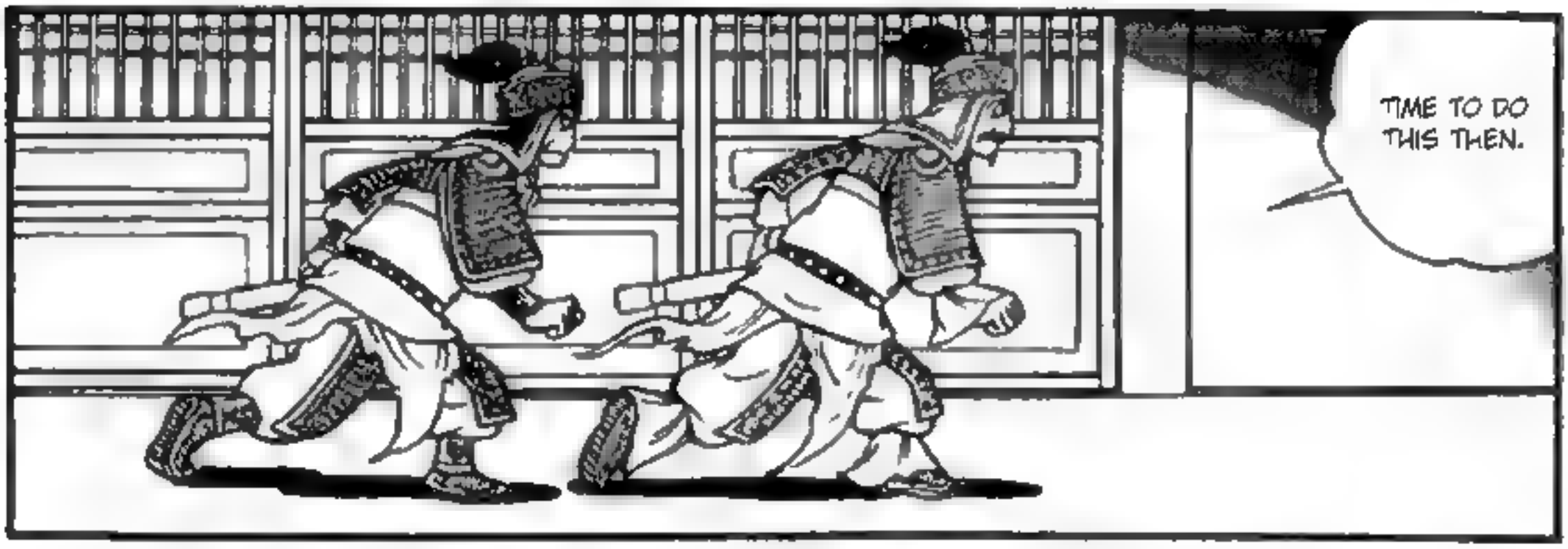

WELL, I BETTER HEAD TO BED NOW. ANOTHER BUSY DAY OF PREPARATIONS TOMORROW.






YES, OUR FAMILIES ARE WAITING ON THE BOATS.
DID YOU PREPARE EVERYTHING?


GOOD.
HE'S IN HIS BEDROOM.


TIME TO DO THIS THEN.








GREAT, HE'S DEEP ASLEEP AFTER DRINKING HEAVILY.

ZZZ...

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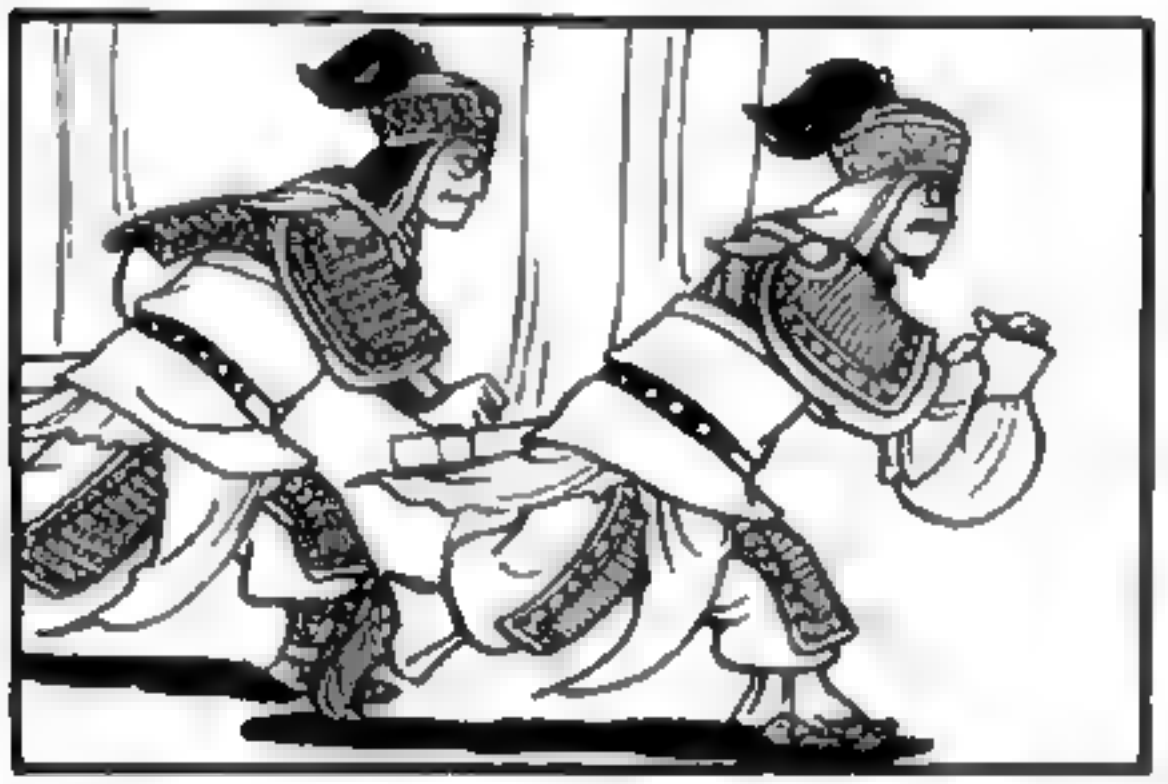
GAHH!


R-RIGHT!
YOU IDIOT, CUT OFF HIS HEAD! IT'S THE HEAD WE NEED AS PROOF!


NGHH!



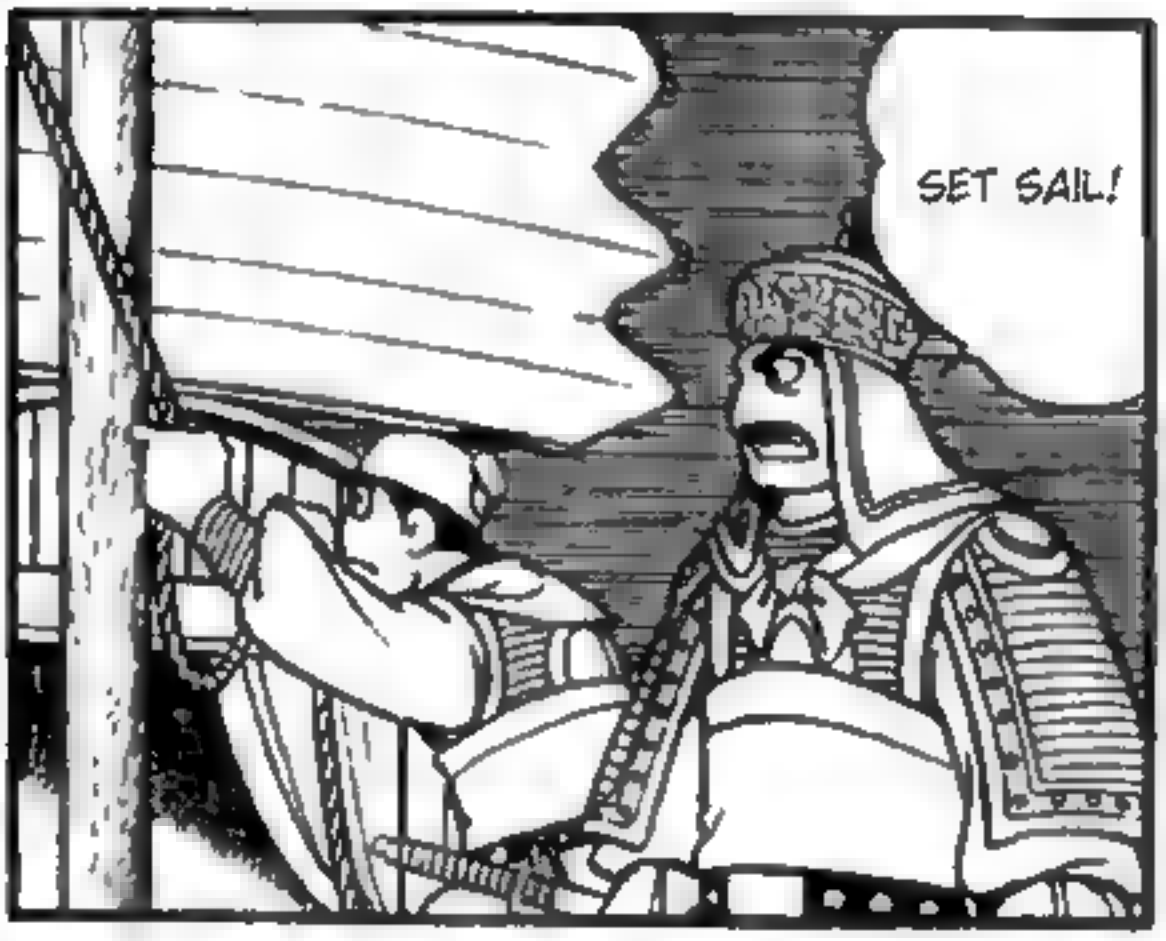




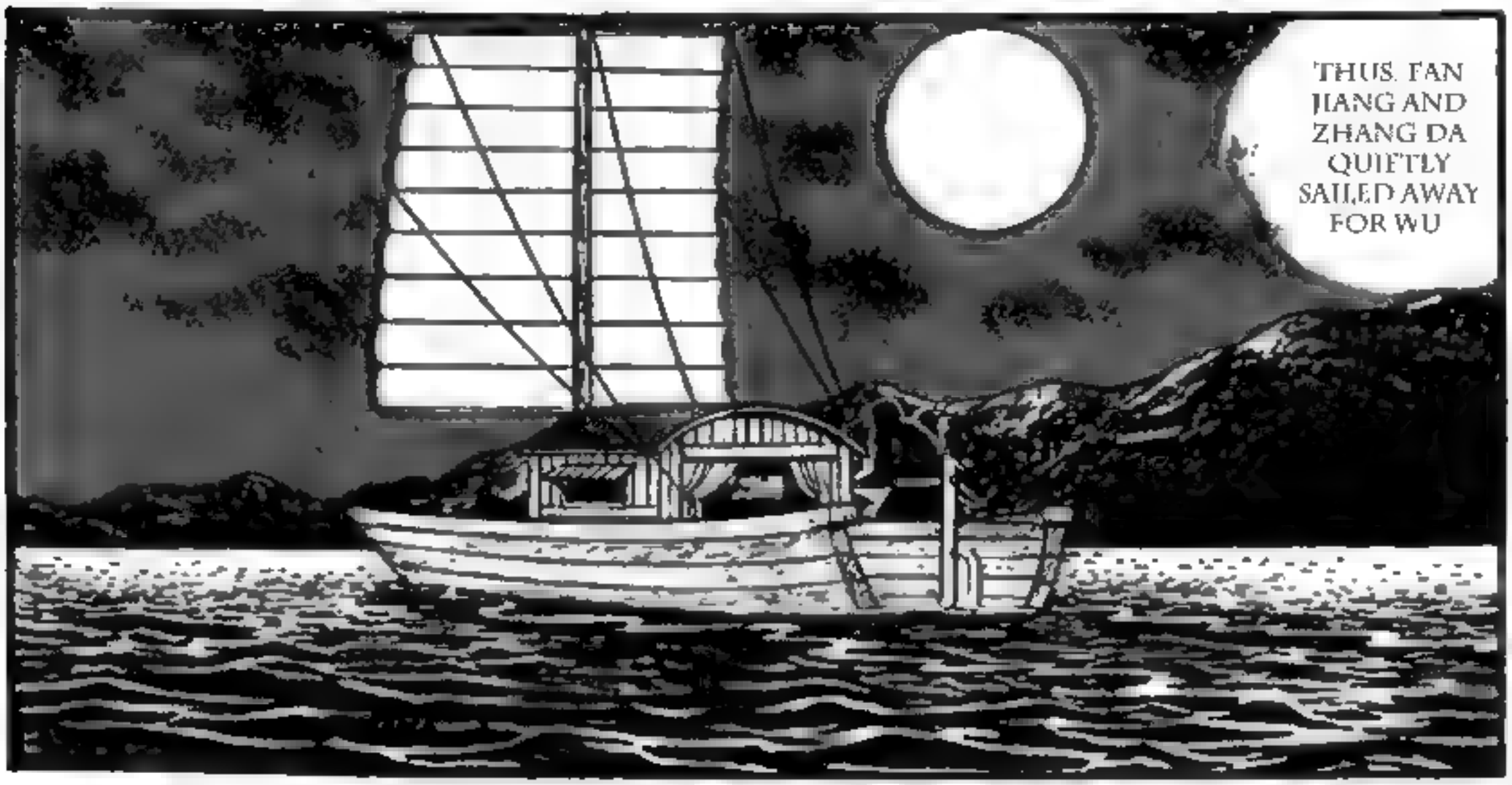

GOOD.




YES, WE HAVE H'S HEAD!
DID EVERY-THING GO ALRIGHT?


SET SAIL!

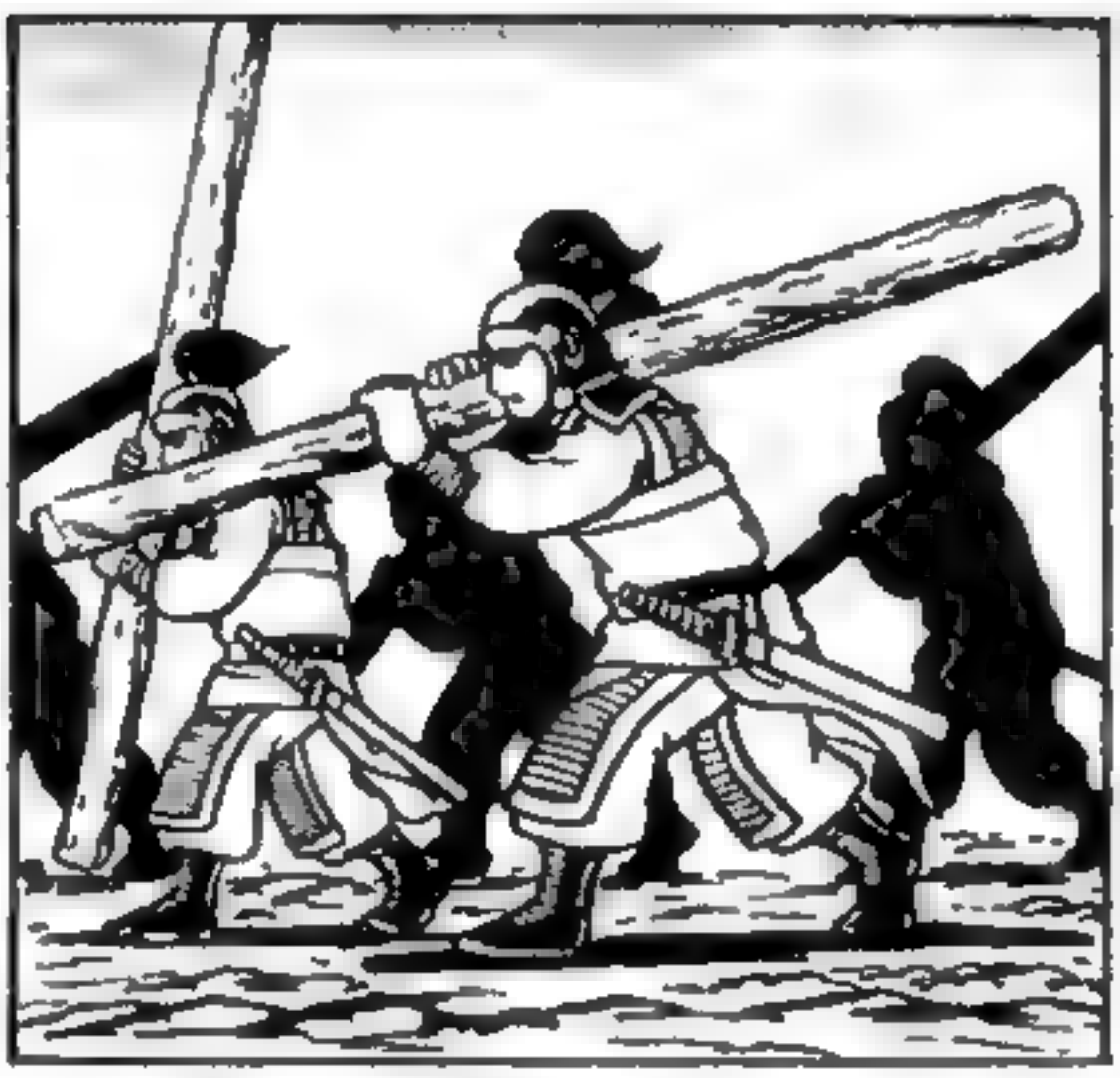

WITH THIS, WE'LL BE SURE TO GET A WARM WELCOME IN WU.

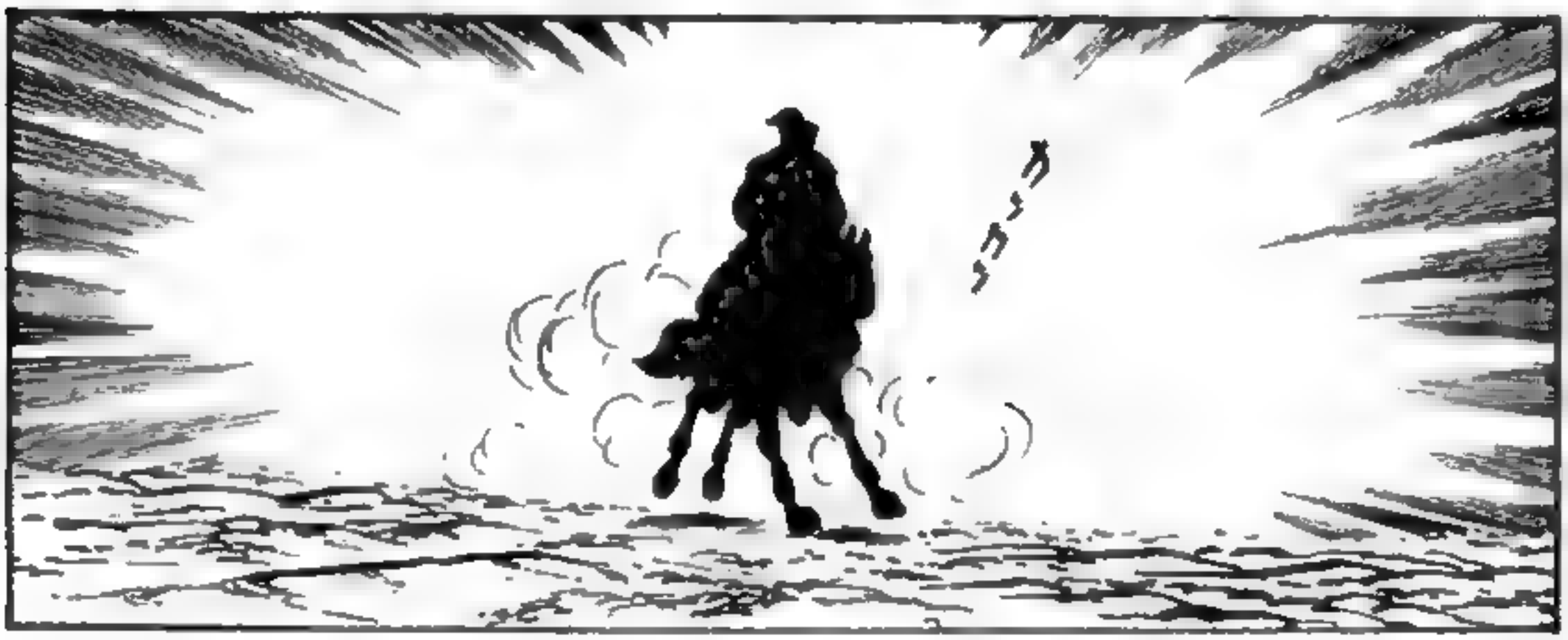

THUS, FAN JIANG AND ZHANG DA QUIETLY SAILED AWAY FOR WU

SHU'S GRAND ARMY CONTINUED IT'S MARCH ONWARDS TO WU AMIDST THE SUMMER BLAZE

WE WILL STOP HERE FOR THE DAY AND MAKE CAMP.






ゴゴゴ


I AM ZHANG FEI'S SUB-ORDINATE, WU BAN!
HALT! IDENTIFY YOUR-SELF!


HM?

COME THIS WAY THEN.

I MUST SEE HIS MAJESTY RIGHT AWAY! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

I REGRET TO INFORM YOUR MAJESTY THAT GENERAL ZHANG FEI HAS BEEN ASSASSINATED.

OH?

ZHANG FEI'S SUBORDINATE HAS COME TO DELIVER A MESSAGE.

Z... ZHANG FEI...!? WAS KILLED!?

WHAT!?

AND WHERE ARE THOSE TWO NOW!?

HE WAS DONE IN BY FAN JIANG AND ZHANG DA WHILE ASLEEP.

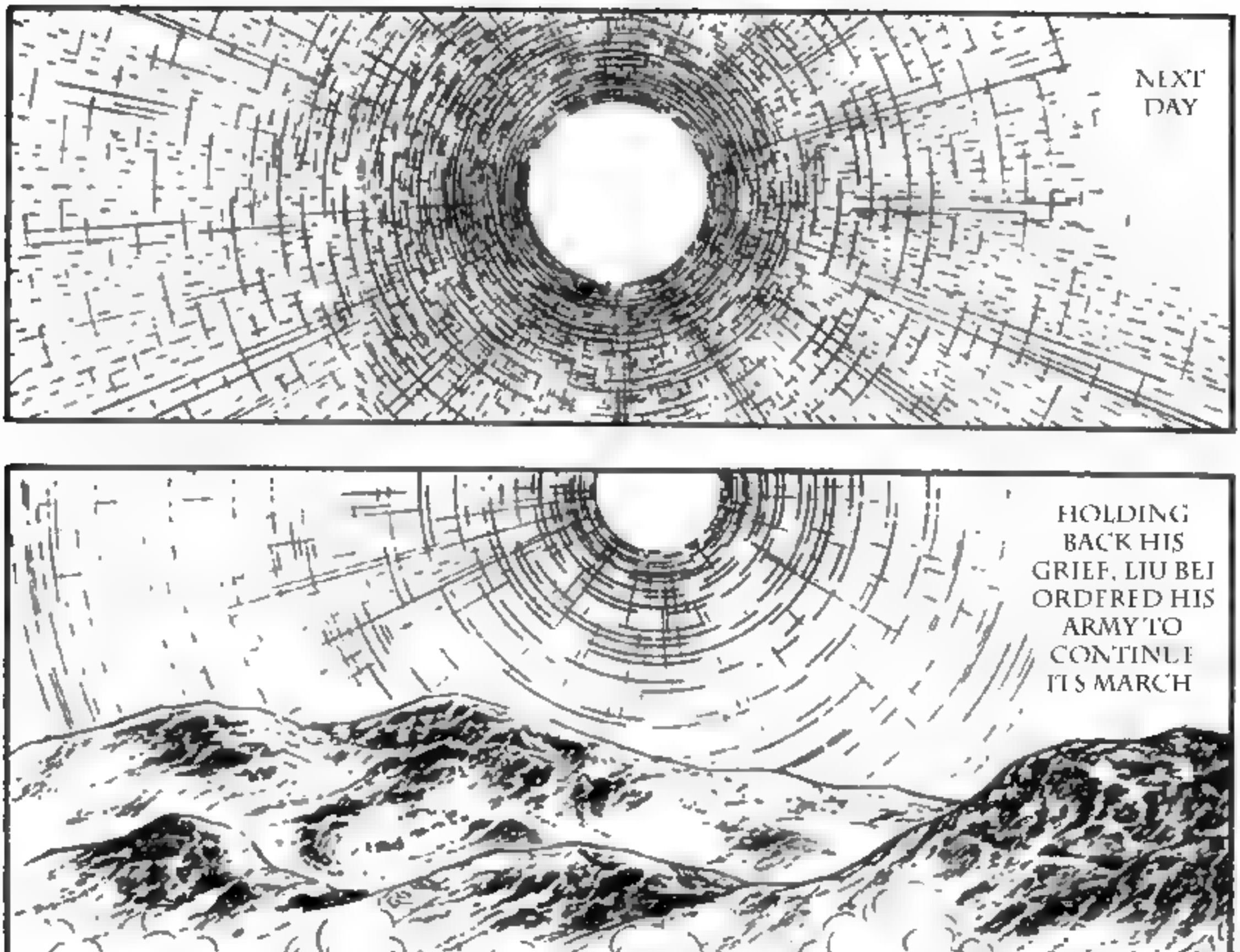
TO WU...?

THEY SEEM TO HAVE CROSSED THE YANGTZE AND FLED TO WU.

THE ONE I HAD BEEN EXPECTING TO COUNT ON THE MOST TO AVENGE OUR BROTHER'S DEATH...

TO THINK ZHANG FEI, THE ONE MOST FIRED UP FOR THIS CAMPAIGN, COULD FALL EVEN BEFORE THE FIGHTING BEGAN...


NOW, I AM THE LONE SURVIVOR OF THE THREE WHO SWORE THAT FATEFUL OATH...
IS IT FATE THAT BOTH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI WERE TO LEAVE ME...?
.....


NEXT DAY
HOLDING BACK HIS GRIEF, LIU BEI ORDERED HIS ARMY TO CONTINUE ITS MARCH

WHO'S THERE?

?

HM?

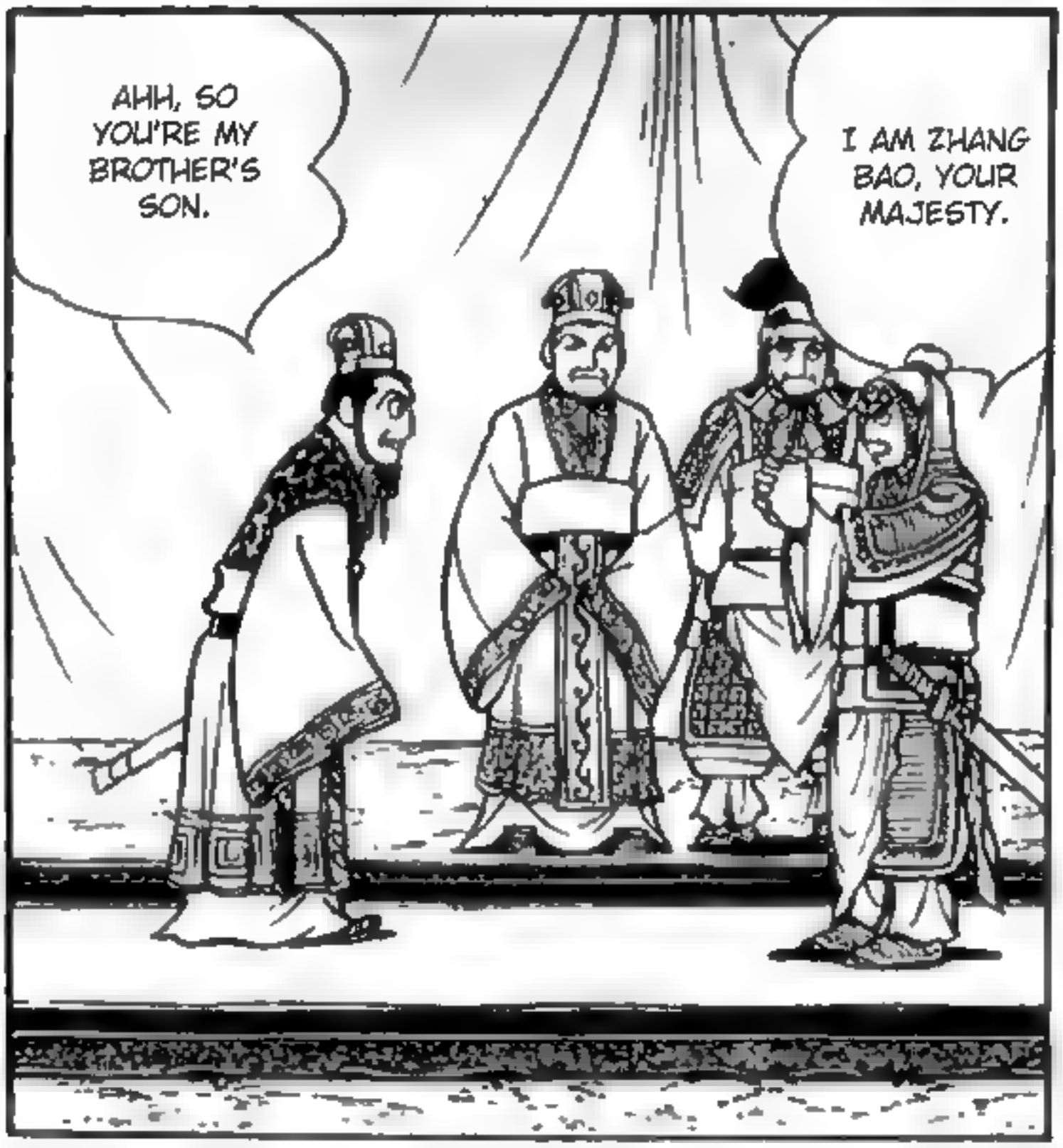
I AM NO ONE SUSPICIOUS! I AM ZHANG BAO, SON OF ZHANG FEI!

THIS WAY.

ALLOW ME TO SEE HIS MAJESTY.


YES, LET HIM IN.


HIS SON!?
ZHANG FEI'S SON HAS COME TO SEE YOUR MAJESTY.


AHH, SO YOU'RE MY BROTHER'S SON.
I AM ZHANG BAO, YOUR MAJESTY.




YES, BUT THAT IS PRECISELY WHY I HAVE RUSHED HERE TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE IN YOUR MAJESTY'S VANGUARD.


I'M SURE THE RECENT EVENTS HAVE LEFT YOU GRIEF-STRUCK AS WELL.

WELL SPOKEN INDEED. YOUR WORDS WOULD SURELY MAKE YOUR FATHER PROUD.

IF I CANNOT CONTRIBUTE MERIT ON THIS CAMPAIGN MY FATHER WAS MOST EAGER FOR, HIS SPIRIT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CALM DOWN PLEASE PUT ME IN THE VANGUARD, YOUR MAJESTY.

HIS SECOND SON?

YOUR MAJESTY, GUAN YU'S SON GUAN XING HAS COME TO SEE YOU.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

YES, LET HIM IN.


蜀
劉




AH, SO YOU'RE GUAN XING!


HAVING HEARD YOUR MAJESTY INTENDED TO MARCH AGAINST WU TO AVENGE MY FATHER'S DEATH, I HAVE RUSHED HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.


GUAN YU, ZHANG FEI YOU HAVE BOTH RAISED DEPENDABLE SONS...


YES, OF COURSE.


PARDON ME, YOUR MAJESTY, BUT TEARS BEFORE A BATTLE IS SAID TO PORTEND ILL LUCK.


YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
ZHANG BAO. GUAN XING. I HOPE YOU WILL BOTH LEND ME YOUR STRENGTHS AS YOUR FATHERS DID BEFORE YOU.

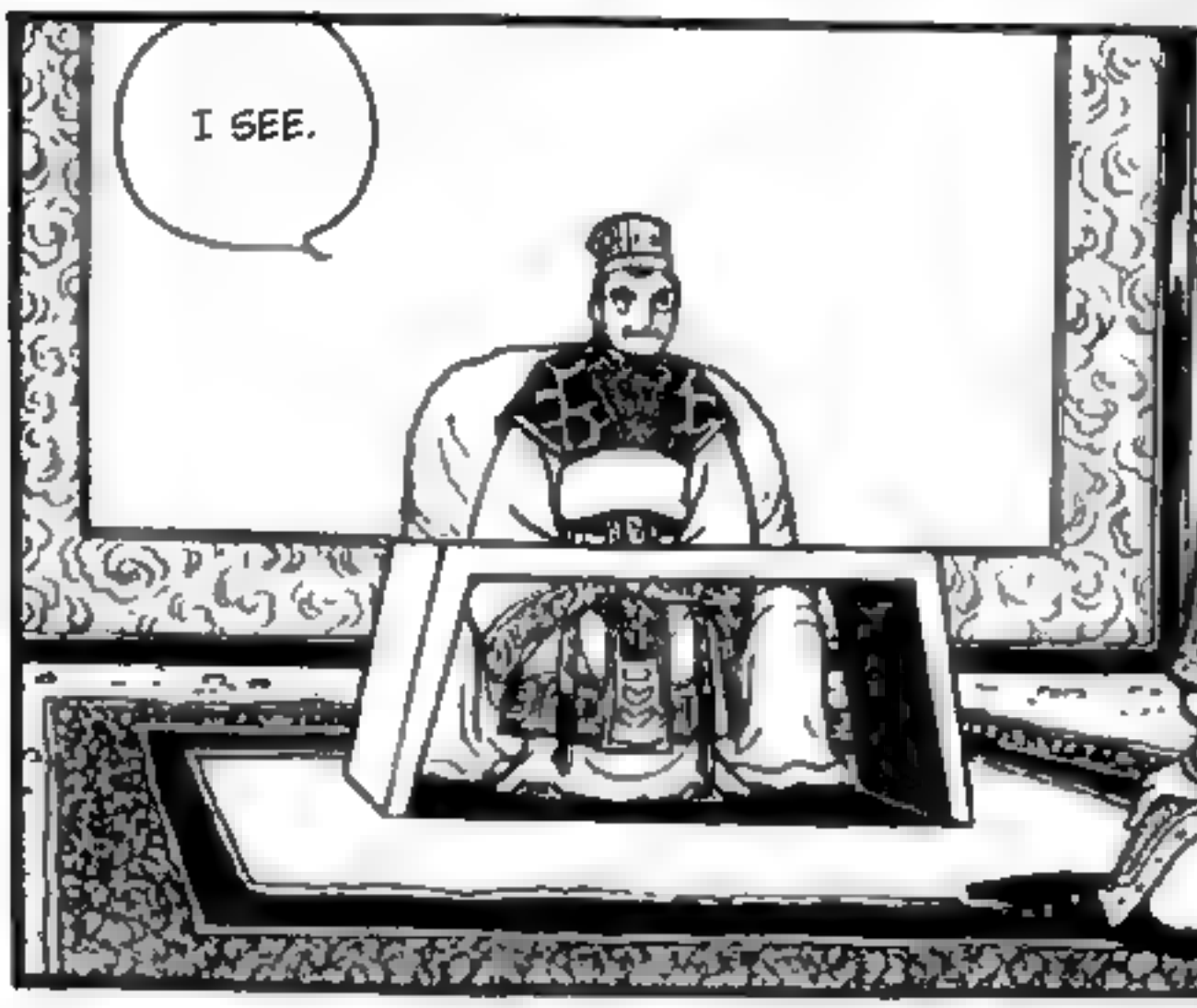

AFTER SEEING THE RESOLVE OF HIS BROTHERS' SONS, HE FELT EVER MORE DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE VICTORY ON THIS CAMPAIGN.
ALTHOUGH THE THREE BROTHERS SWORE TO LIVE AND DIE TOGETHER, LIU BEI NOW FOUND HIMSELF AS THE LONE SURVIVING MEMBER.

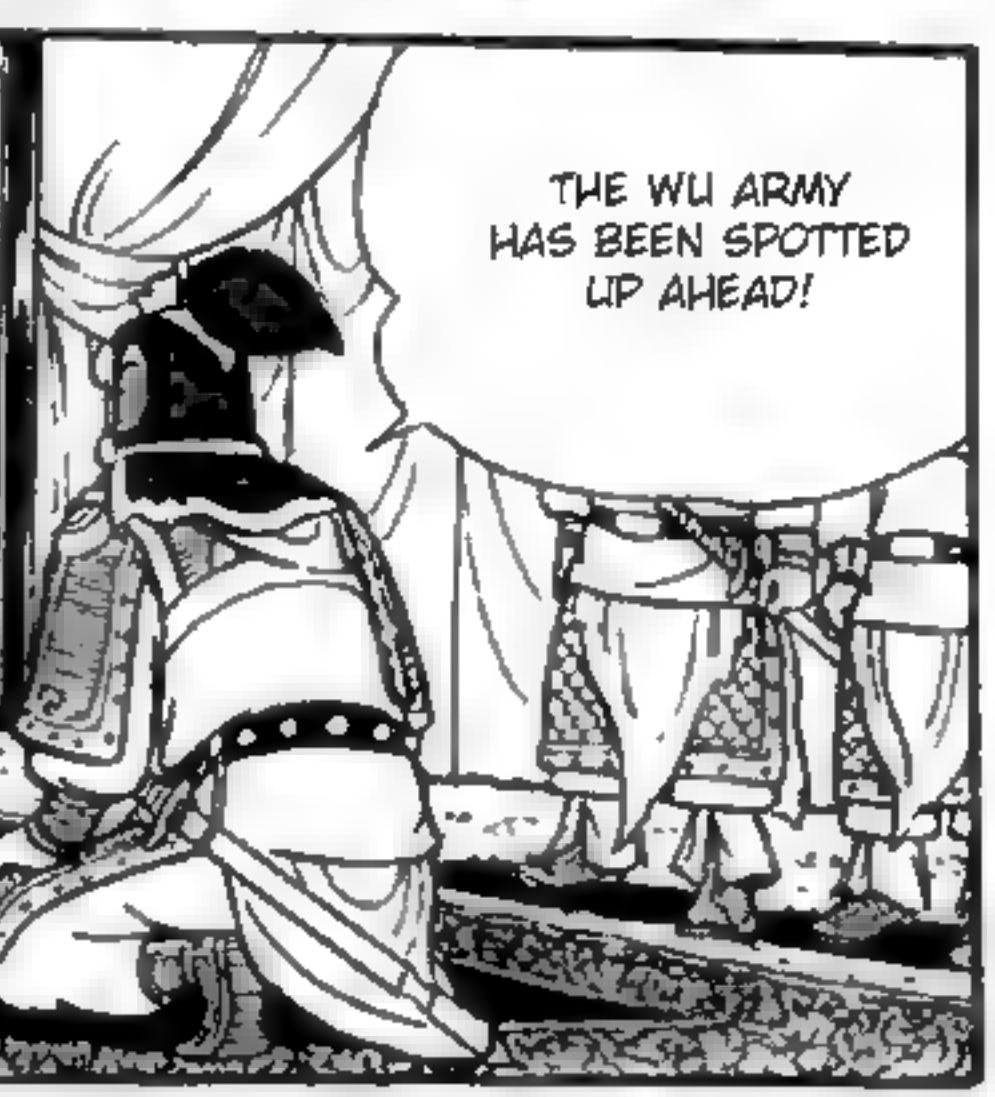
CONTEST OF TALENT











ZHANG BAO? FINE, IF YOU FEEL UP TO THE TASK, I WILL GRANT YOU THE CHANCE.

PLEASE GRANT ME PERMISSION TO LEAD THE VANGUARD AND ENGAGE THEIR FORCES.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO LEAD THE VANGUARD, AS MY FATHER IS LIKELY WATCHING ME FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.

PLEASE WAIT, YOUR MAJESTY.

YES, GUAN XING?

I HAVE BEEN TRAINED AS A SOLDIER SINCE CHILDHOOD AND AM PARTICULARLY PROFICIENT WITH THE BOW.

HOLD ON! JUST WHAT TALENT DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU THINK YOU CAN LEAD THE VANGUARD!?

PLEASE GRANT ME THE COMMISSION, YOUR MAJESTY.

BAH! AS THE SON OF ZHANG FEI, I AM SECOND TO NONE IN MARTIAL ARTS!

AH, I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE DECIDE THIS WITH A CONTEST OF TALENT?

HMM... I SEE YOU BOTH FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THIS COMMISSION...

I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.

GLADLY.

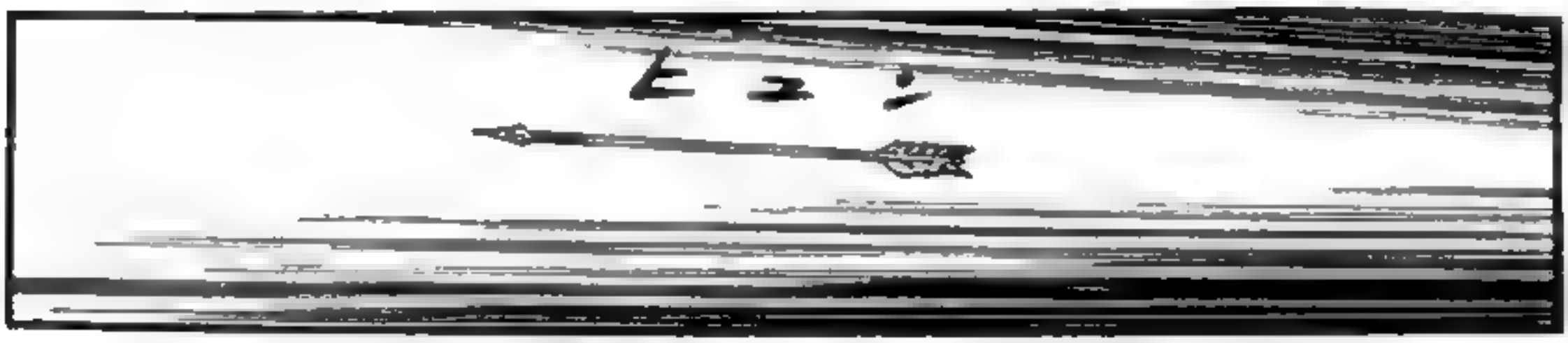



YES, SIR.
YOU THERE! SET UP RED TARGETS ON FLAGS AND PLACE THEM OVER THERE.

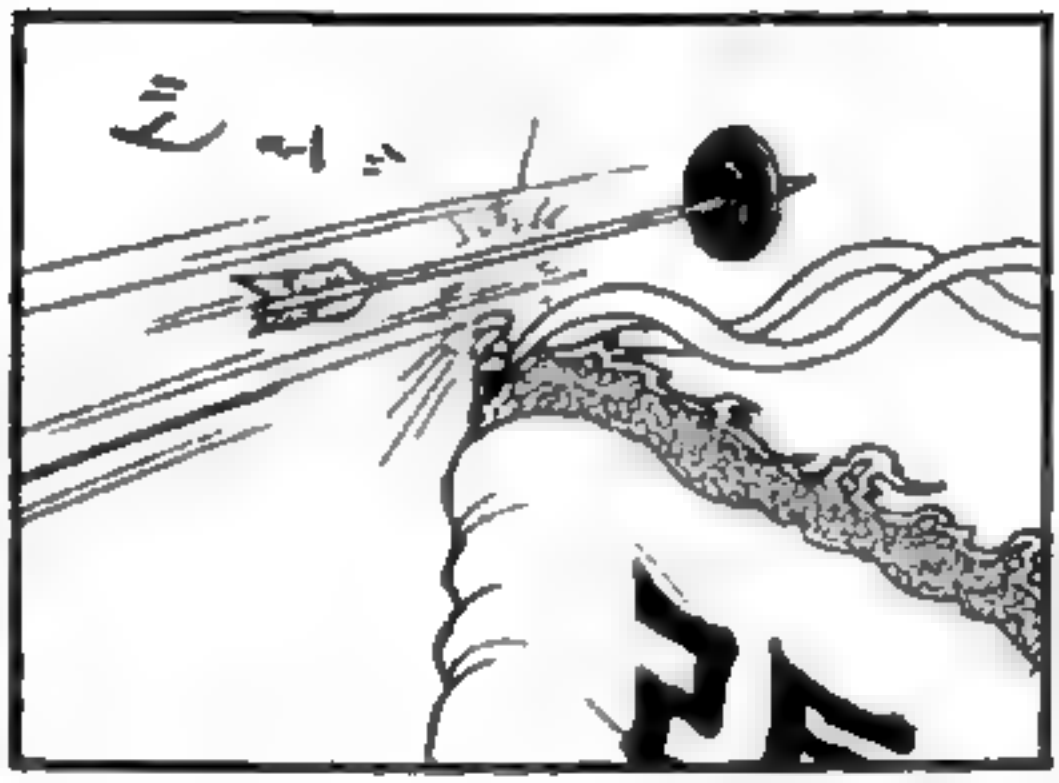

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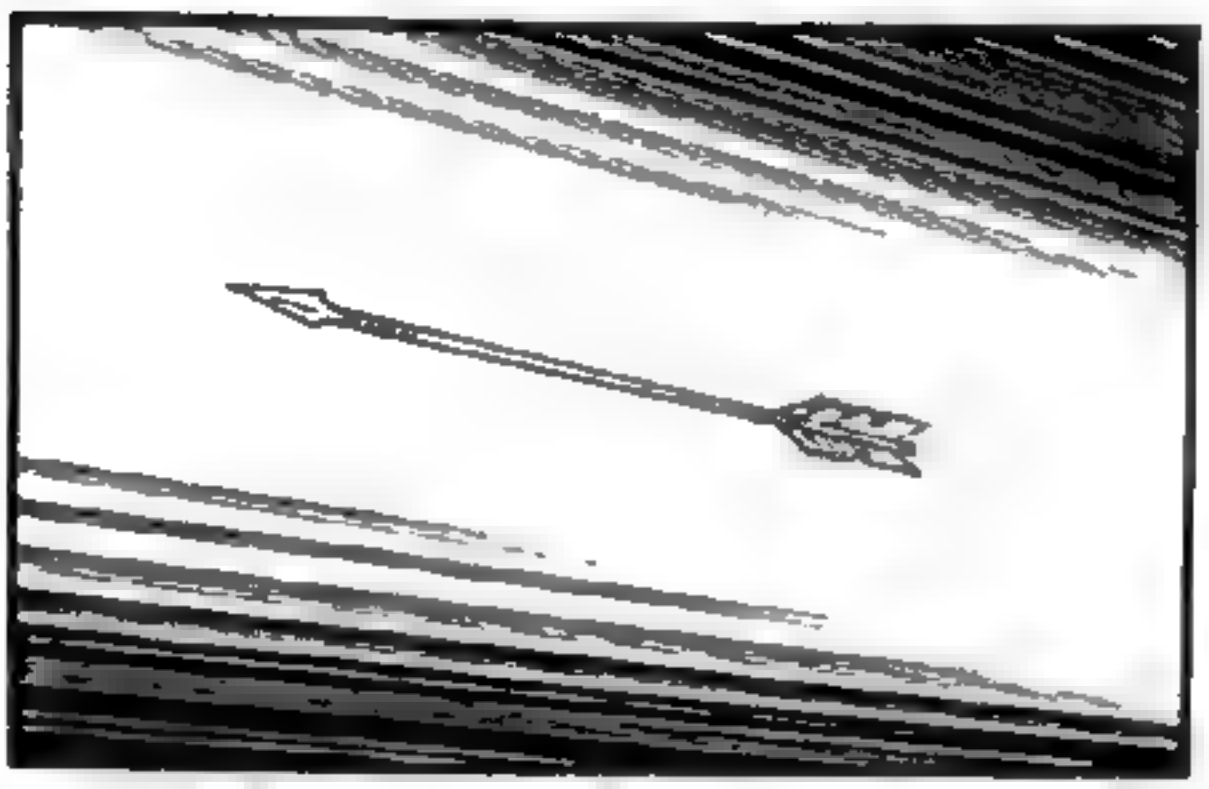



ALLOW ME TO GO FIRST.
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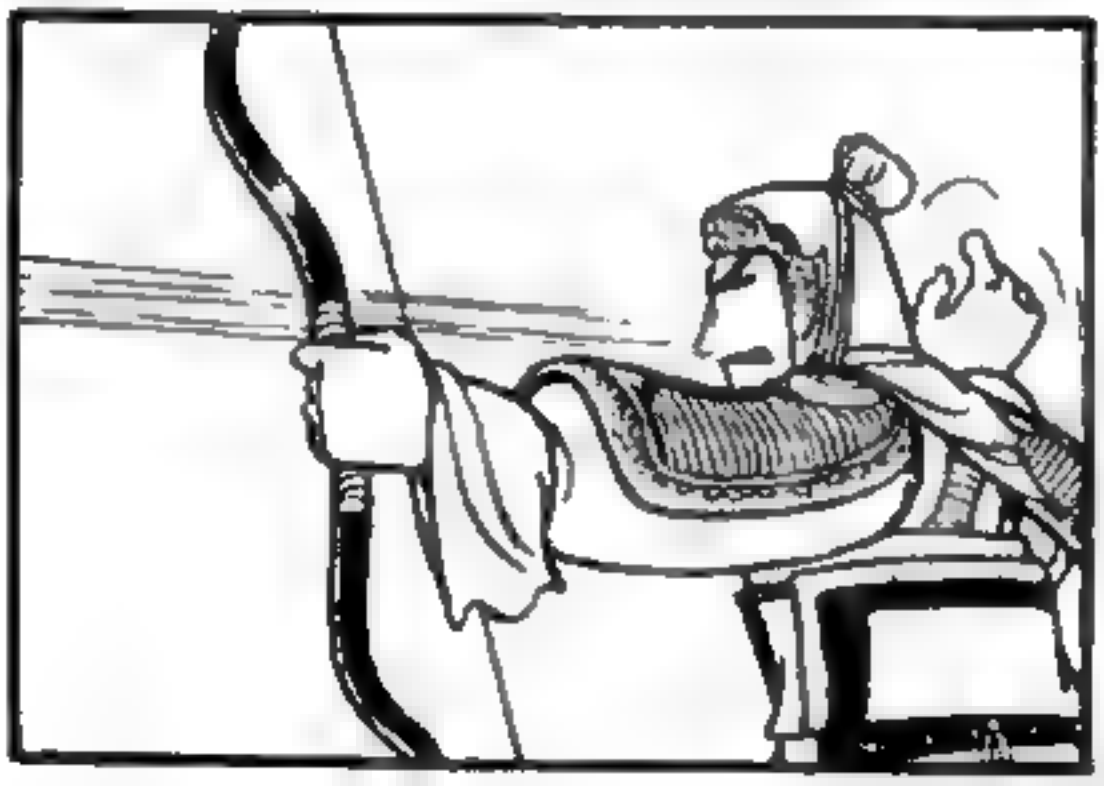

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REMARK-
ABLE!
OHH!



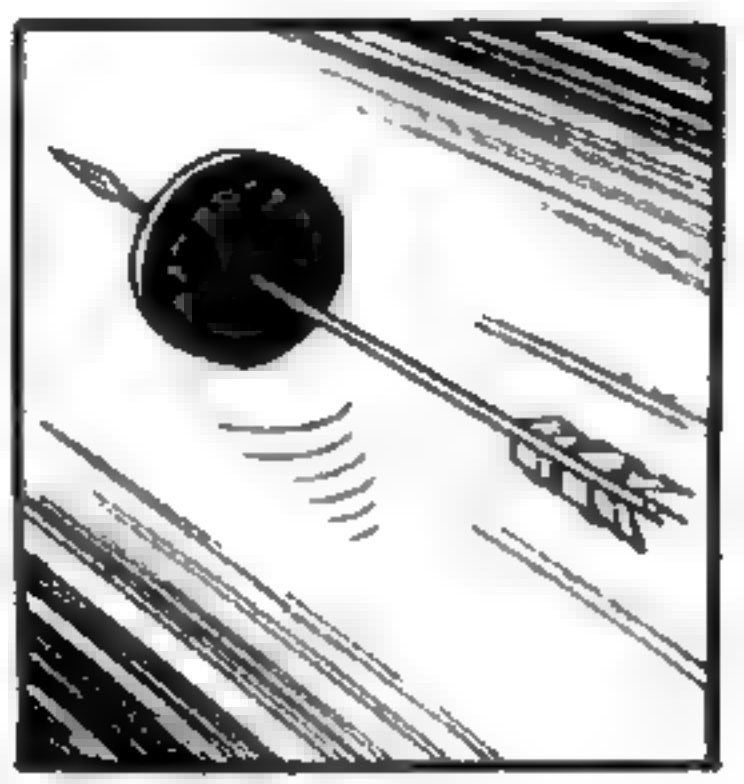




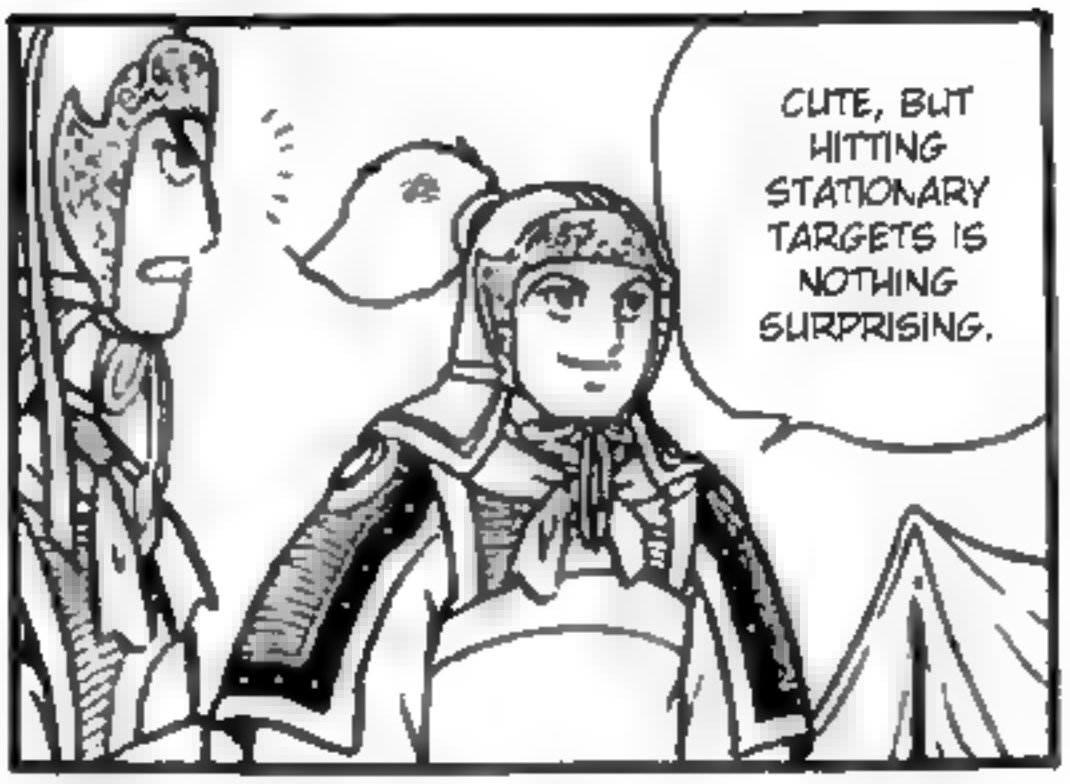





HE LIVES UP TO
HIS FATHER
ZHANG FEI'S
NAME.
OHHH!

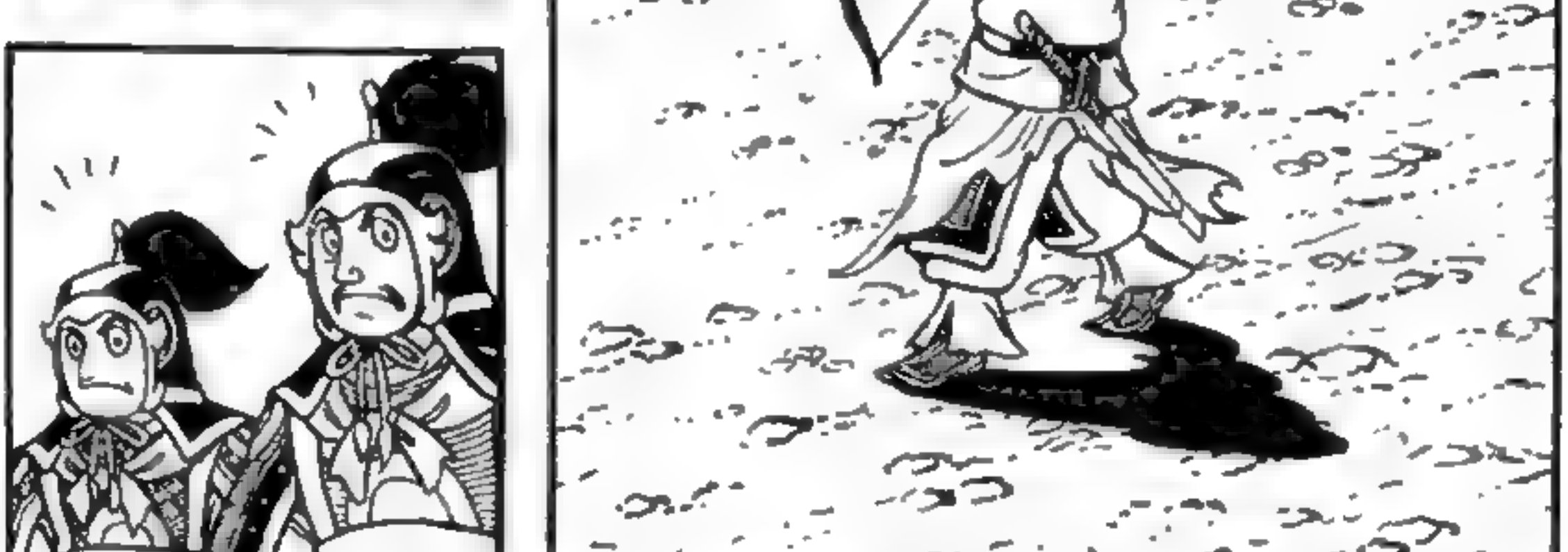



I WILL SHOOT THE THIRD FLYING GOOSE.

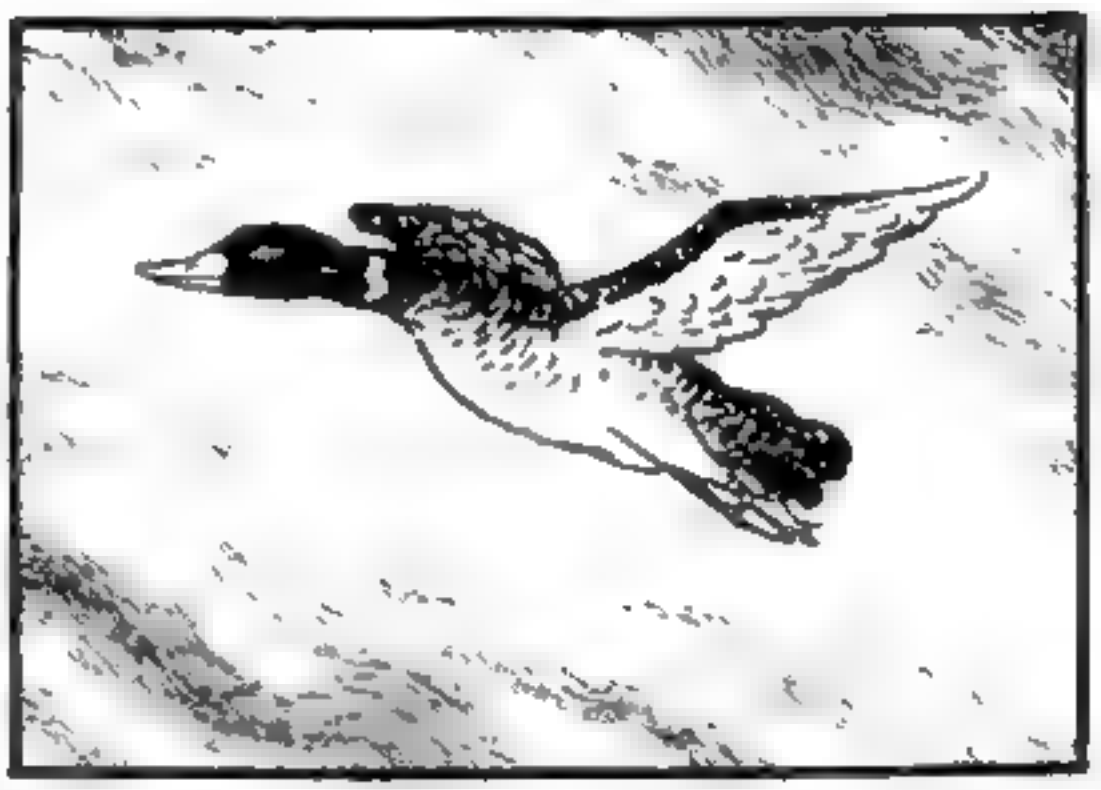

CUTE, BUT HITTING STATIONARY TARGETS IS NOTHING SURPRISING.



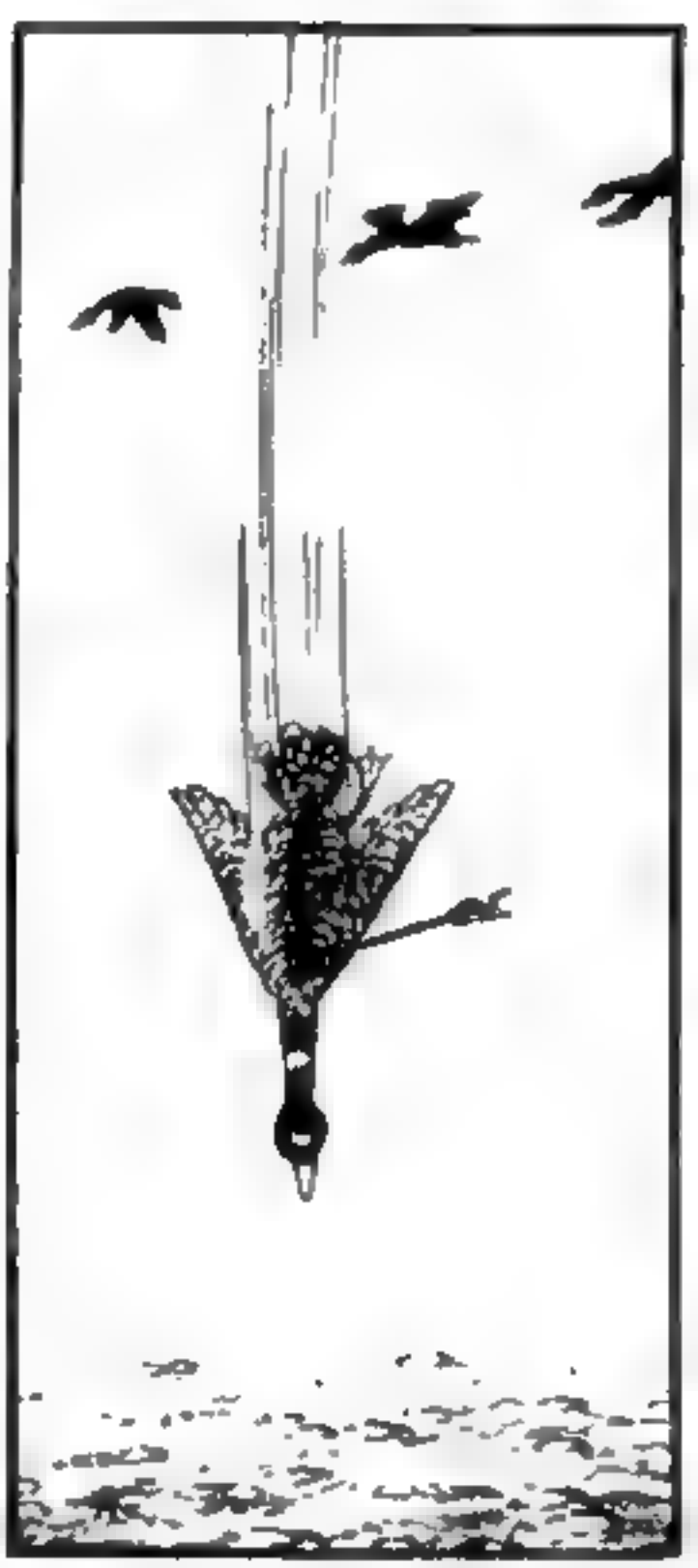






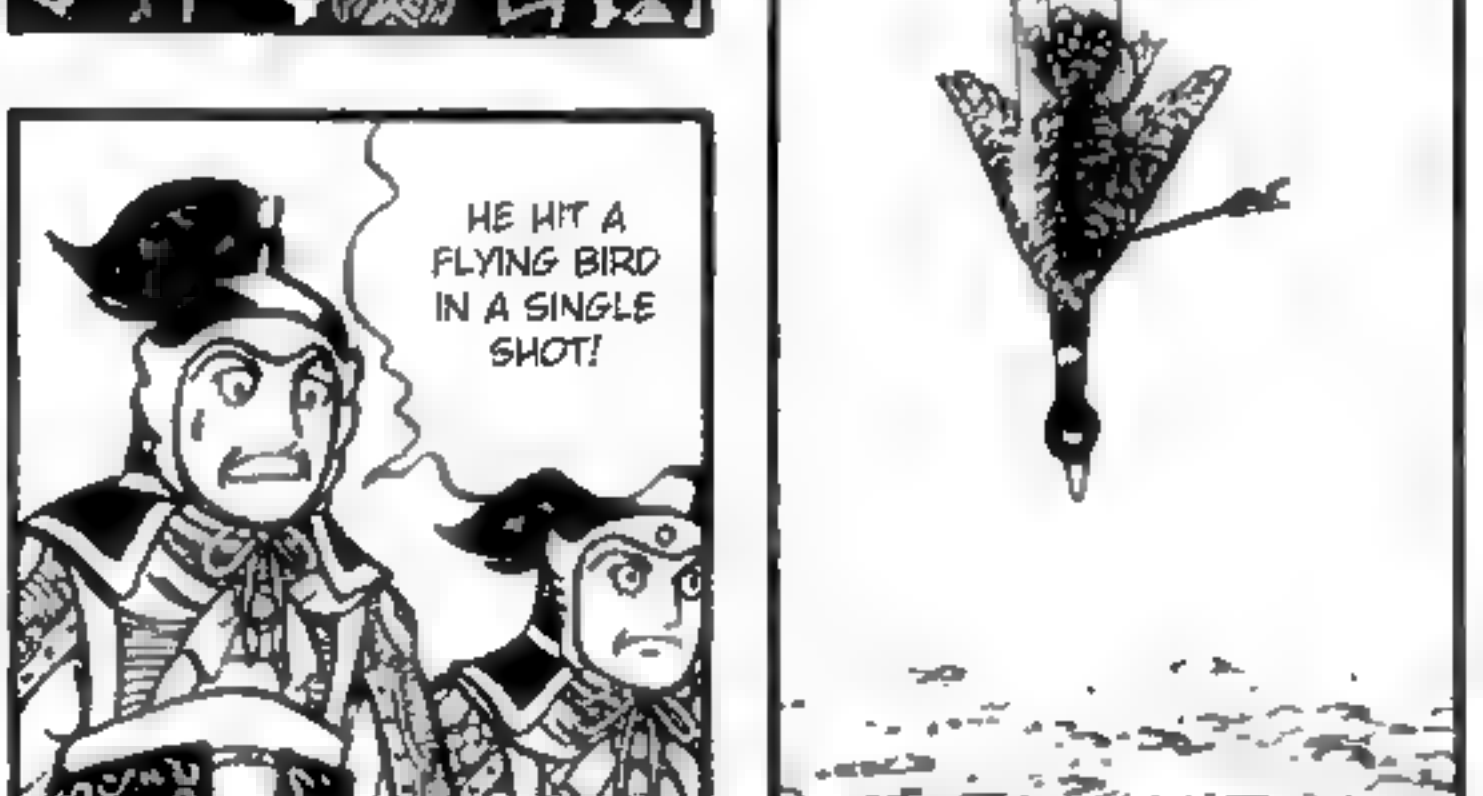



OHH!






HE HIT A FLYING BIRD IN A SINGLE SHOT!


ARCHERY IS NOT ENOUGH FOR THIS COMMISSION. WHY DON'T WE SEE HOW YOU FARE IN A REAL COMBAT?

NGHH...

HERE I COME!

BRING IT ON THEN.

HALT!

THINK OF HOW MUCH ANGUISH YOU WOULD CAUSE YOUR FATHERS, IF THEIR SONS WERE HURT BY FIGHTING EACH OTHER!

WHAT SENSE DOES IT MAKE FOR ALLIES TO FIGHT!? YOUR FATHERS WERE SWORN BROTHERS, I REMIND YOU!

FORGIVE US, YOUR MAJESTY.





I WISH FOR YOU TWO TO GET ALONG JUST AS YOUR FATHERS DID. SWEAR AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD, WITH THE OLDER ONE BECOMING THE ELDER BROTHER.

I AM OLDER BY ONE YEAR, YOUR MAJESTY.

WHO IS OLDER?

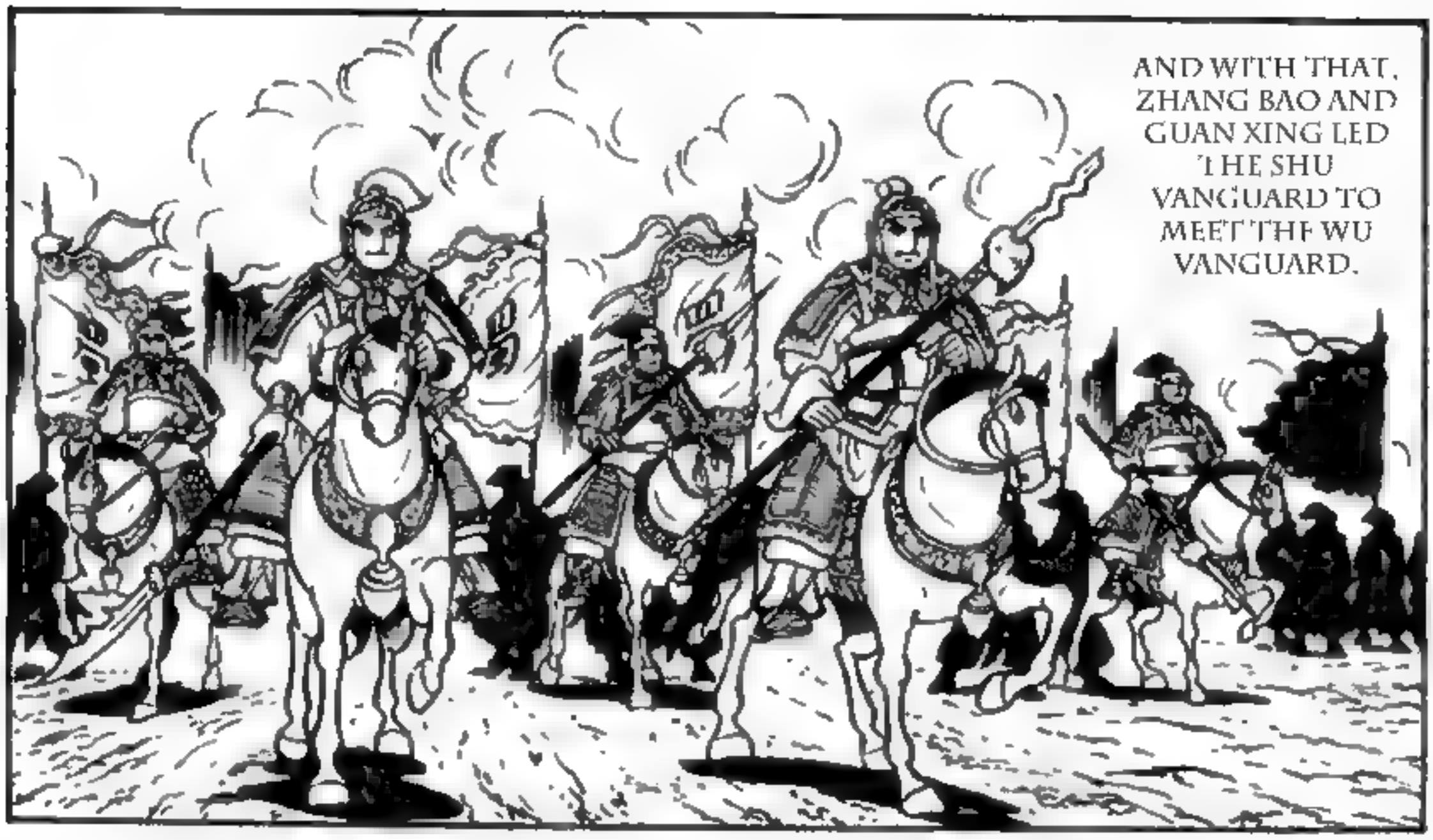
YES.

VERY WELL, ZHANG BAO WILL BE THE ELDER BROTHER WHILE GUAN XING WILL BE THE YOUNGER BROTHER.

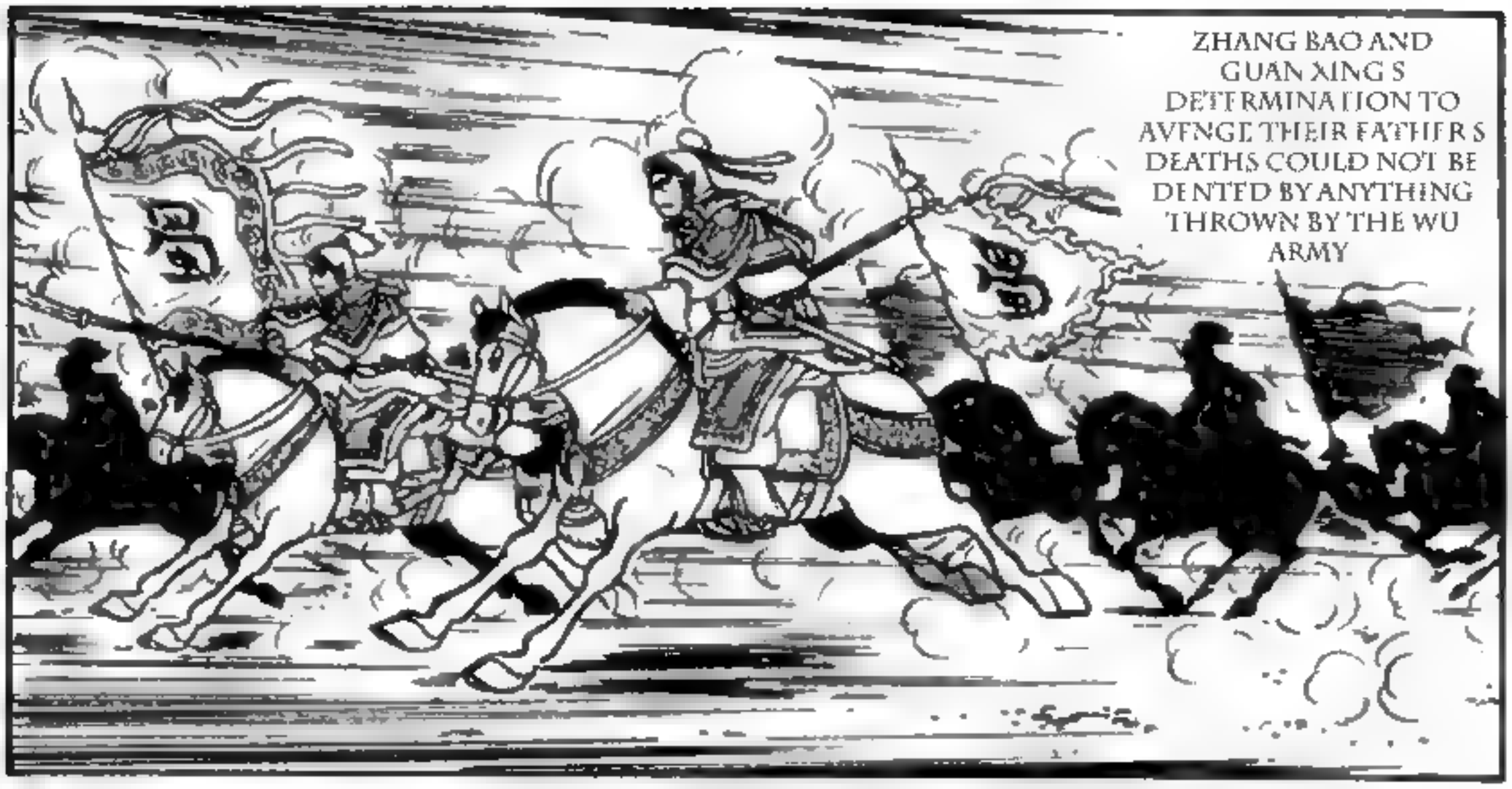
GOOD, THAT IS HOW IT SHOULD BE. YOU MAY NOW LEAD THE VANGUARD TOGETHER.

YES, ZHANG BAO.

GUAN XING, LET US BE BROTHERS JUST AS OUR FATHERS WERE BEFORE US.

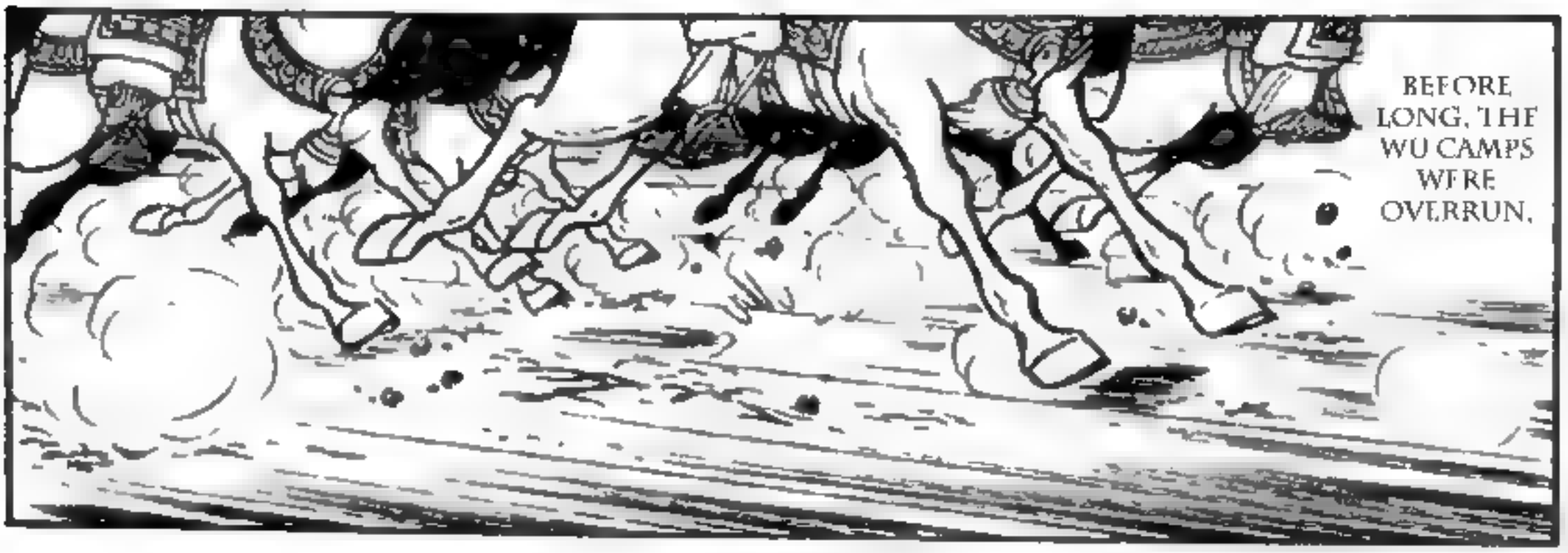

AND WITH THAT, ZHANG BAO AND GUAN XING LED THE SHU VANGUARD TO MEET THE WU VANGUARD.

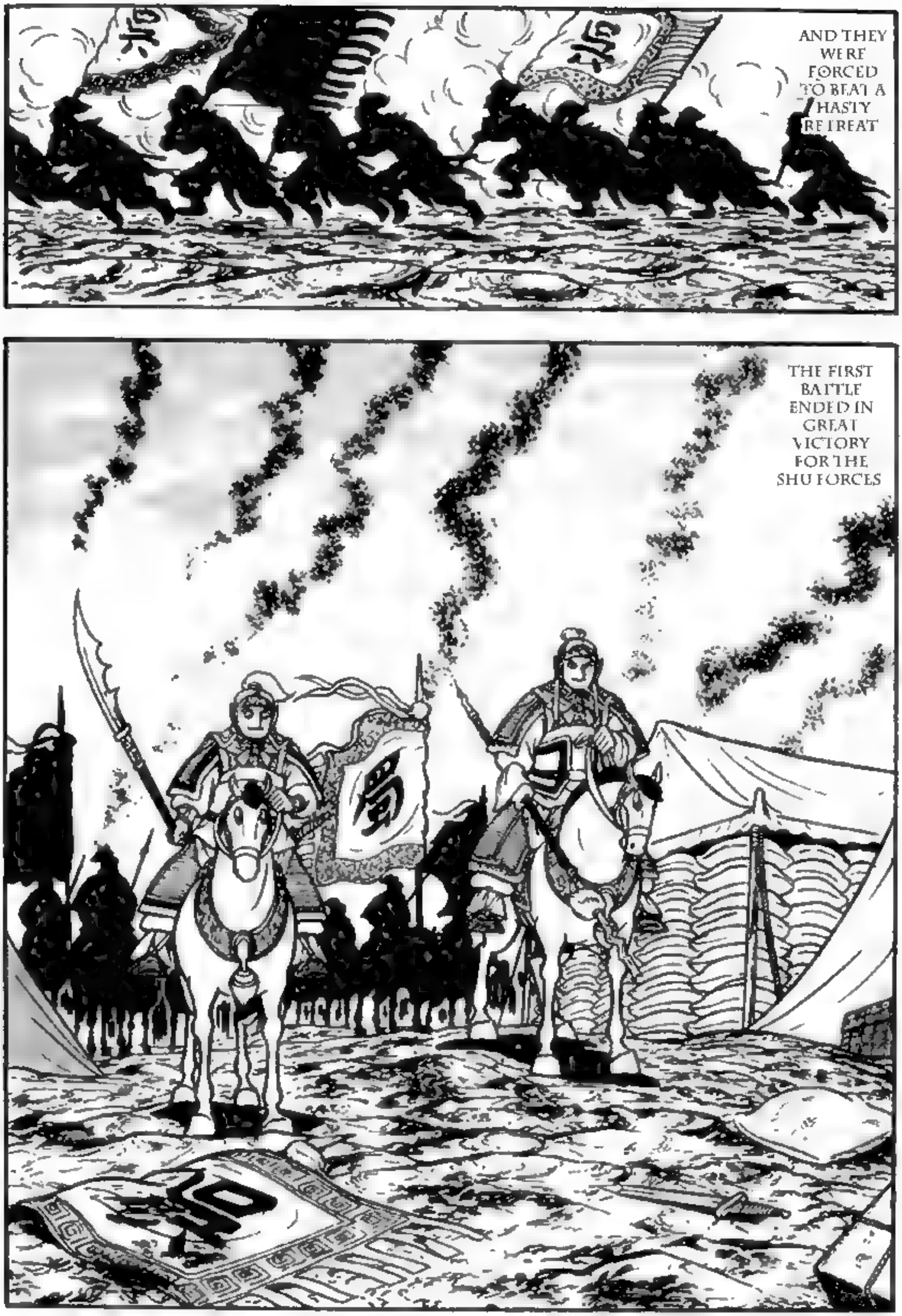

THE WU VANGUARD OF 50 000 WAS LED BY SUN QUAN'S COUSIN SUN HUAN AND GENERAL ZHU RAN


ZHANG BAO AND GUAN XING'S DETERMINATION TO AVENGE THEIR FATHER'S DEATHS COULD NOT BE DENTED BY ANYTHING THROWN BY THE WU ARMY


WAS A SIGHT TO BE HOLD


THEIR PERFORM-ANCE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD,


BEFORE LONG, THE WU CAMPS WERE OVERRUN.


AND THEY WERE FORCED TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT
THE FIRST BATTLE ENDED IN GREAT VICTORY FOR THE SHU FORCES


THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU TWO HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF AS THE SONS OF MIGHTY GENERALS. I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER.


YES, YOUR MAJESTY.


BUT DO NOT BECOME DRUNK ON THIS FIRST VICTORY. SUN QUAN IS SURE TO DESPERATELY STRIKE BACK WITH EVERYTHING HE HAS.


ALL THE OTHER OFFICERS HEAPED PRAISES ON THE WORTHY SONS OF GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI

劉

AFTER THE FIRST DEFEAT, SUN HUAN AND ZHU RAN HAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT A DEFENSIVE APPROACH, WITH THE FORMER GUARDING THE APPROACH BY LAND AND THE LATTER GUARDING THE RIVER AT THE HEAD OF A NAVY.

WHAT'S THE ENEMY STATUS?

YES, I FEAR WE WILL TAKE HEAVY CASUALTIES IF WE AGGRESSIVELY ATTACK WITHOUT A SOLID STRATEGY.

HMM, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OVERRUN THEM AS EASILY AS IN THE FIRST BATTLE THEN.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TRY TO LURE THE ENEMIES OUT.

THE CAMPAIGN HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN. WE MUST REDUCE OUR LOSSES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

YES, WE SHOULD PURPOSELY LET ZHU RAN KNOW THAT WE ARE PLANNING TO RAID SUN HUAN'S CAMPS AT NIGHT.

AND DO YOU HAVE A GOOD PLAN FOR DOING SO?

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

EXCELLENT, CARRY IT OUT THEN.

ZHU RAN WILL THEN NATURALLY DOCK HIS SHIPS TO REINFORCE SUN HUAN'S FORCES, BUT WE WILL INTERCEPT HIM WITH AN AMBUSH.

VICTORY AFTER VICTORY









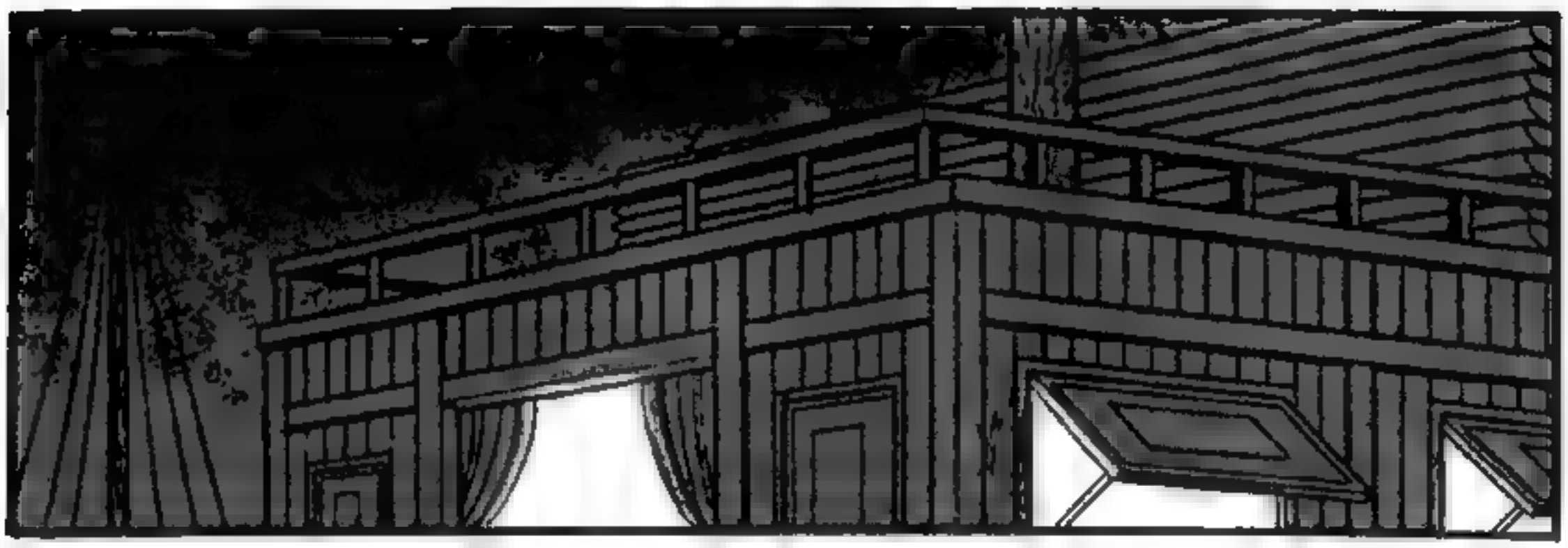
HE'S A SHU SOLDIER.

AGHH...

TAKE HIM TO GENERAL ZHU RAN!

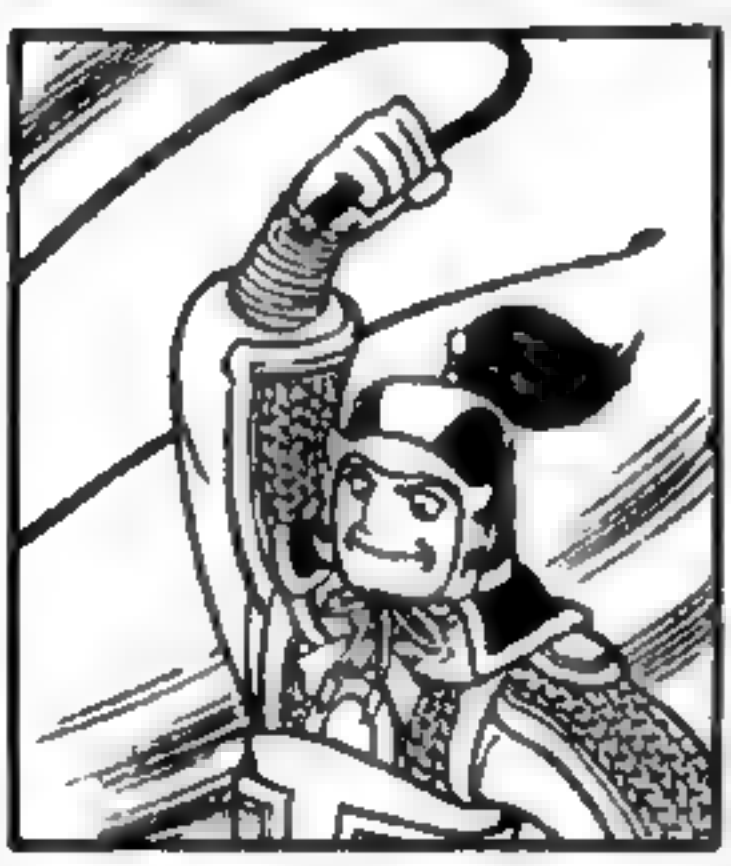
MN...

MOVE IT!






WE HAVE PAINFUL WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK IF YOU WON'T CONFESS QUICKLY.
WHAT WERE YOU LURKING AROUND THESE PARTS FOR?




I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!


AGHH!

A NIGHT RAID!?

OUR GENERAL IS PLANNING TO RAID SUN HUAN'S CAMPS AT NIGHT SO MY ASSIGNED UNIT WAS BUSY HAULING OIL DURING THE DAY. UNFORTUNATELY, I GOT SEPARATED FROM MY UNIT AFTER THE SUN SET.

THIS WAY.

KEEP THIS MAN UNDER WATCH!

SIR, IT IS RISKY TO BELIEVE THE WORDS OF A SINGLE CAPTURED SOLDIER. ALLOW ME TO SET UP THE AMBUSH WHILE YOU GUARD OUR SHIPS HERE.

IF THEY'RE PLANNING ON A RAID, THEN LET US AMBUSH THEM ON THE ROADS TO SUN HUAN'S CAMPS. WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE!

YES, SIR.

I WILL GIVE YOU 10,000 TROOPS FOR THE TASK THEN.

RIGHT, GOOD POINT.

THUS, LIEUTENANT GENERAL CUI YU LED 10,000 TROOPS TOWARDS SUN HUAN'S CAMPS.

吳

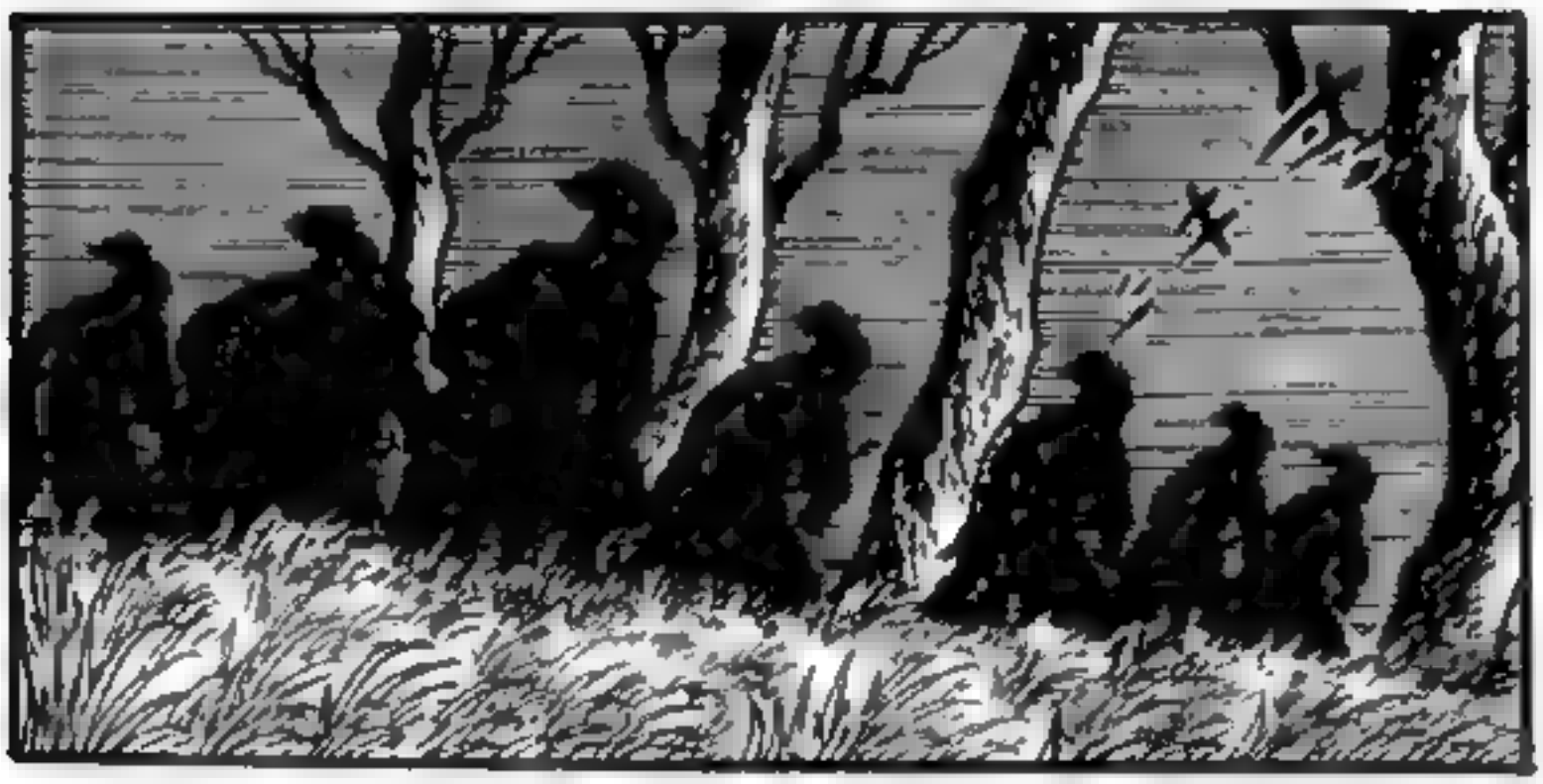
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YES, AND IT APPEARS TO BE AT SUN HUAN'S CAMPS!

SIR, THERE'S FIRE UP AHEAD!

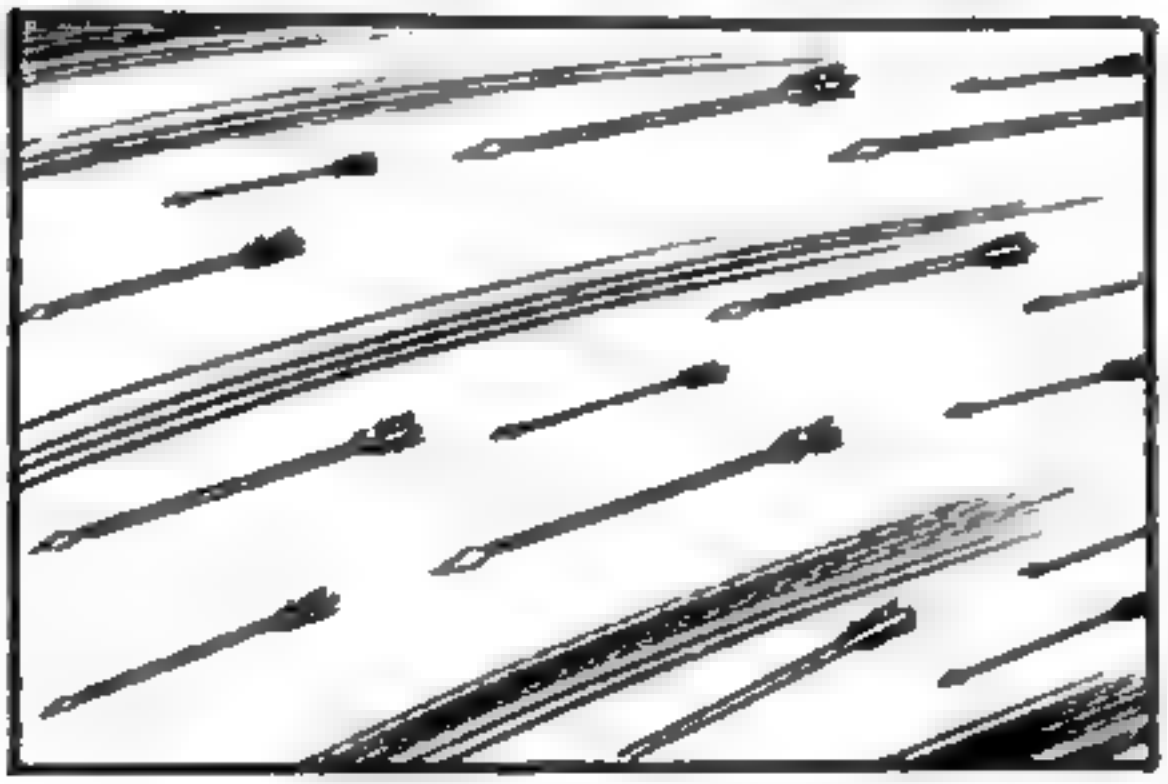
HM?

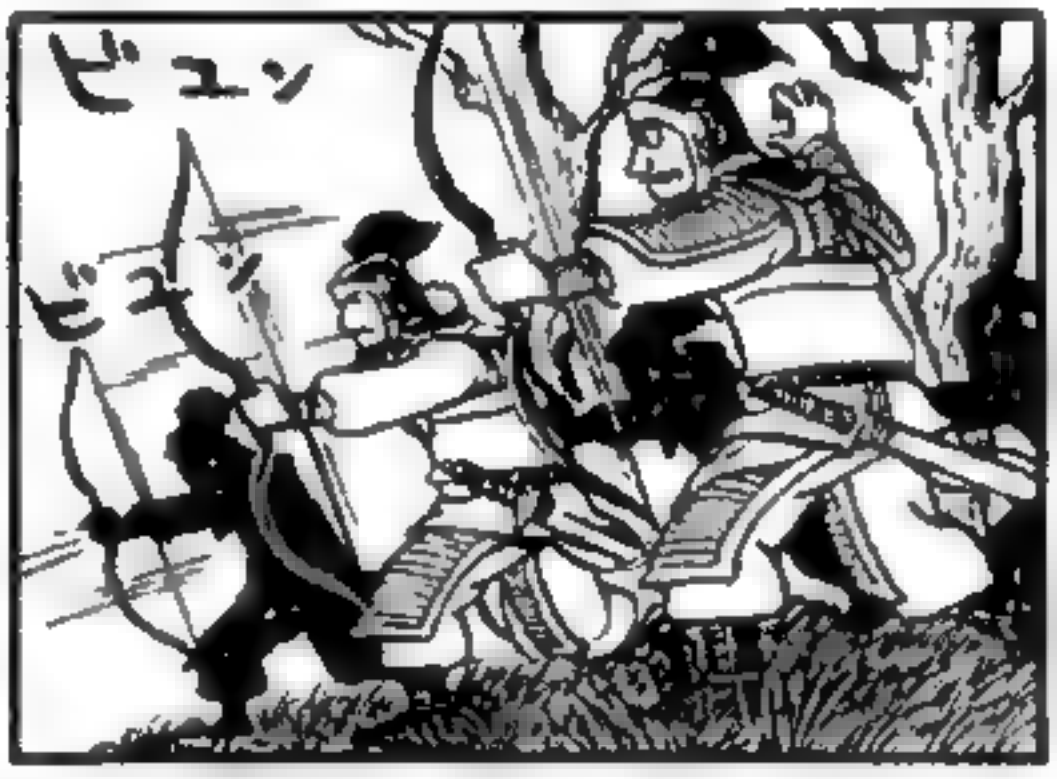
WE MUST RUSH TO AID!



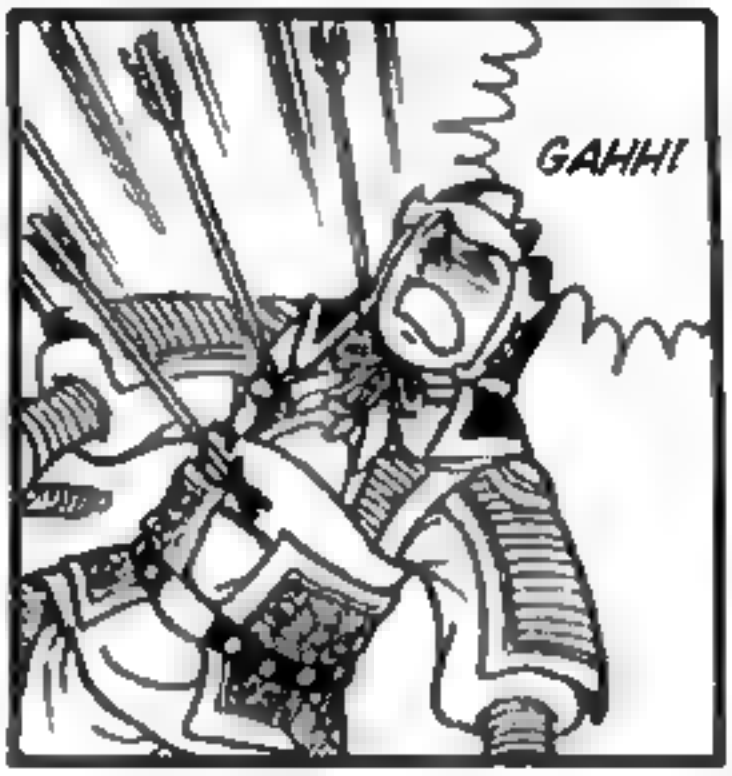







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WHA!?


GAHH!


AGHH!


I, ZHANG BAO, WILL BE YOUR MATCH!


AS WILL I, GUAN XING!



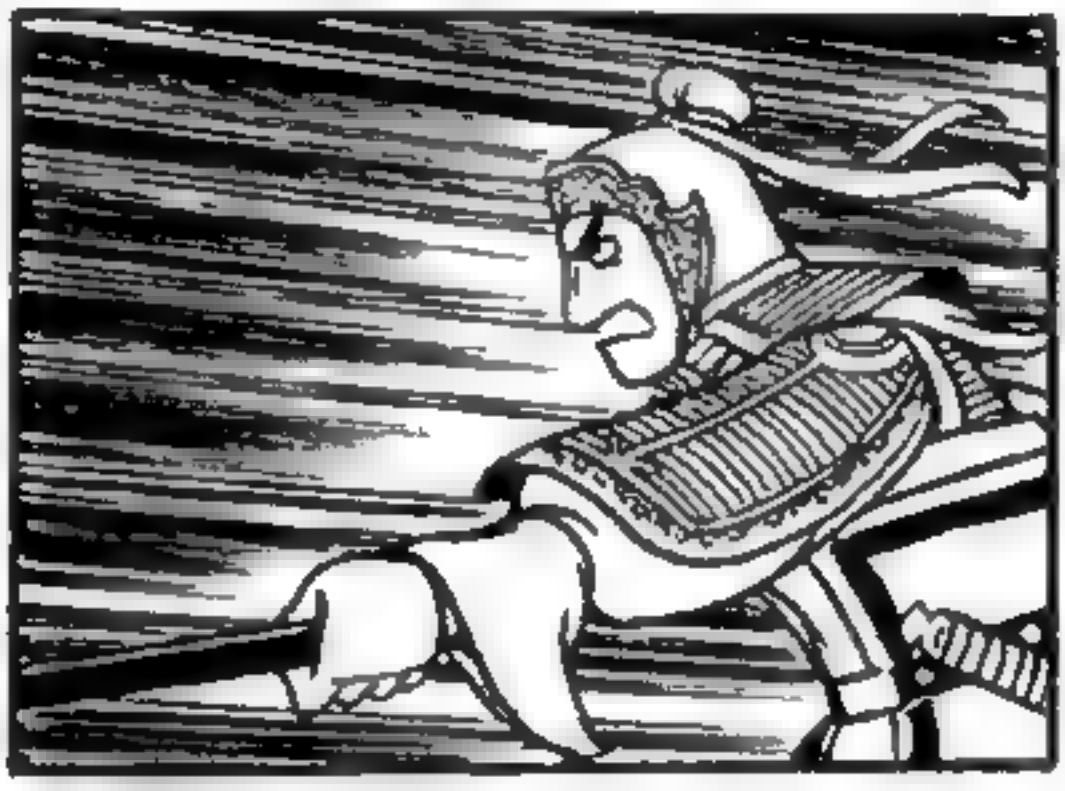



NGHHH!


AN AMBUSH!?


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魏

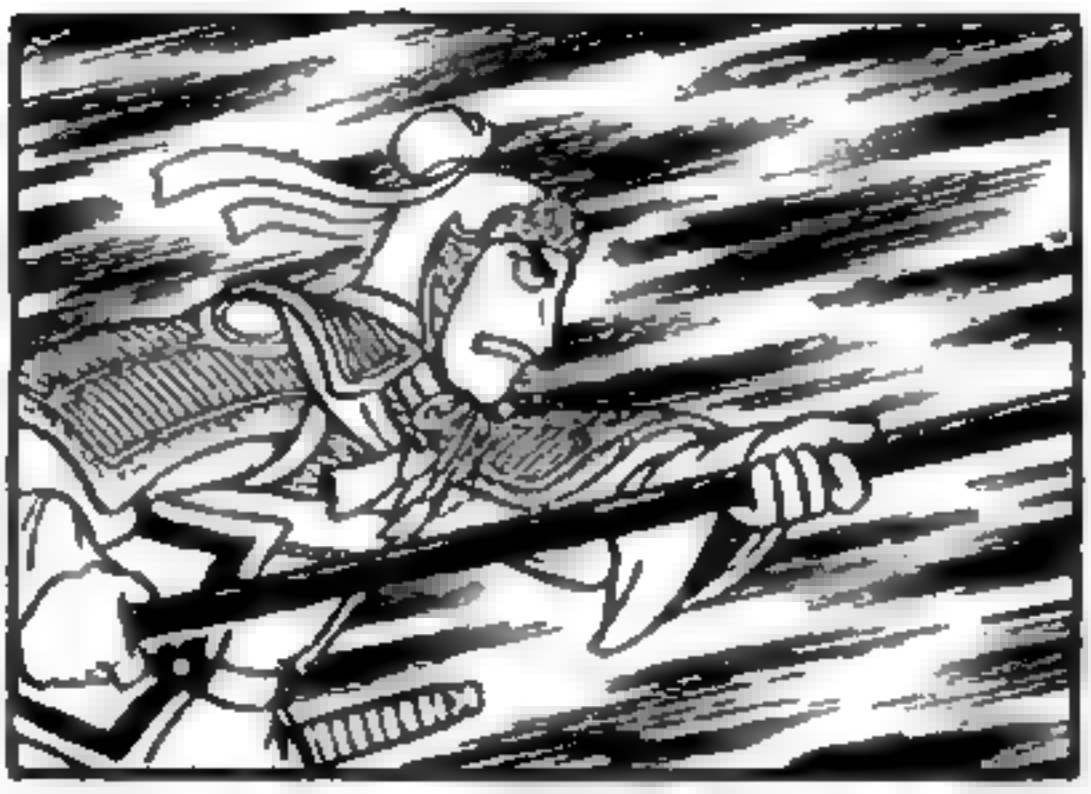













AGHHH!
ACK!




DON'T LET A SINGLE ENEMY ESCAPE!






WHAT!
SIR! YOUR FORCES YOU SENT ON LAND HAVE COME BACK DEFEATED!


AHH!



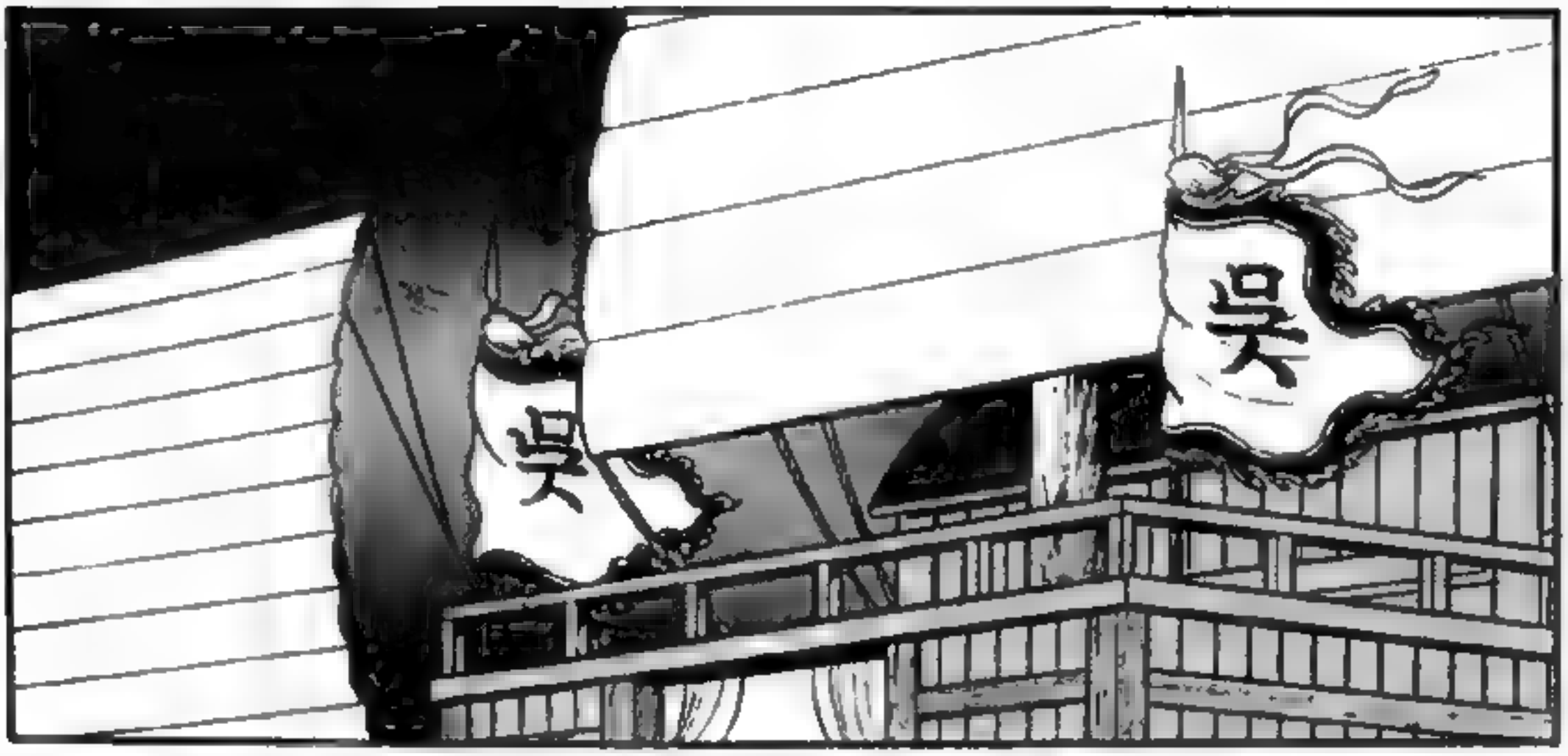
THEY'VE OVERRUN OUR LINES AND ARE COMING THIS WAY AS I SPEAK!

THE SHU FORCES HAD ALREADY SET UP AN AMBUSH FOR US!

W-WHAT HAPPENED?

AHH!

RAISE THE SAILS!


吳
吳


PANICKING, ZHU RAN'S NAVY RETREATED 50 LI DOWN STREAM


MEANWHILE ON LAND, SUN HUAN FOUND HIS CAMPS OVERRUN.
吳


AND HE WAS FORCED TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT TO YILING

YES, I'M AFRAID OUR FORCES COULD NOT HOLD BACK THE SHEER FORCE OF SHU TROOPS.

...

SUN HUAN FELL BACK ALL THE WAY TO YILING!?

VERY WELL. YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF.

ALL 750,000 OF THEIR TROOPS SEEM HELLBENT ON AVENGING GUAN YU'S DEATH.

DO NOT BE SO QUICK TO WORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE MEN WHO HELPED ESTABLISH OUR STATE ALONG WITH YOUR LATE BROTHER HAVE NOW PASSED AWAY, WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF CAPABLE GENERALS.

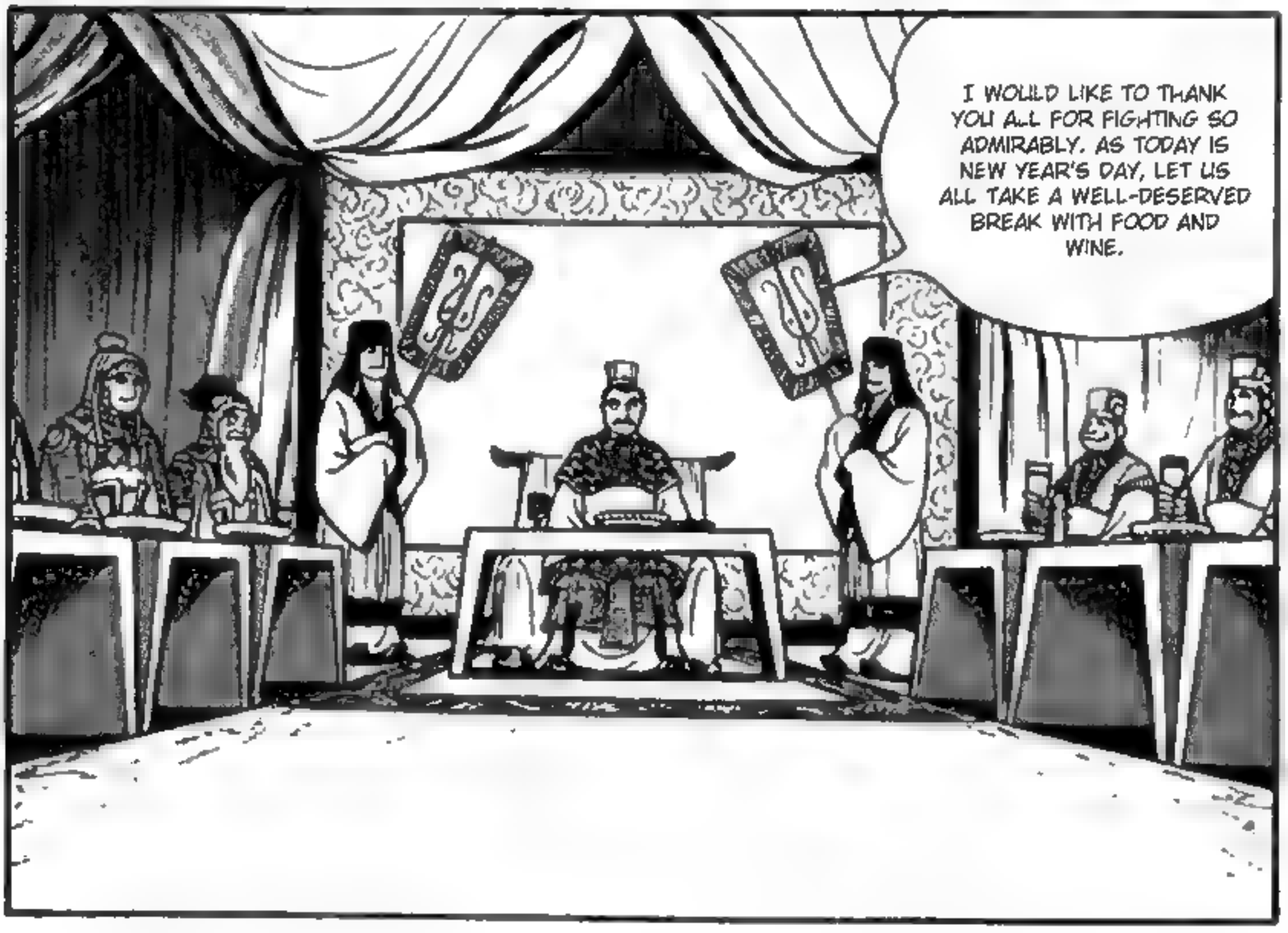
THIS IS DEVELOPING INTO A CRITICAL CRISIS. DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS ON WHAT TO DO?

VERY WELL, I SHALL DO AS YOU ADVISE.

APPOINT HAN DANG AS THE COMMANDER, ZHOU TAI AS LIEUTENANT, PAN ZHANG AND LING TONG AS LEADER OF THE VANGUARD AND REAR-GUARD RESPECTIVELY. MEANWHILE, GAN NING CAN FREELY SUPPORT WHERE NECESSARY.

LOSS OF THREE TIGERS




I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR FIGHTING SO ADMIRABLY. AS TODAY IS NEW YEAR'S DAY, LET US ALL TAKE A WELL-DESERVED BREAK WITH FOOD AND WINE.

BUT EVEN IF THEY CANNOT, I AM PLEASED TO SEE OUR YOUNGER OFFICERS CAN PICK UP THEIR SLACK.

I HOPE THE OLDER OFFICERS CAN ENDURE THIS WINTER.

THEY WILL SURELY BECOME STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S EMPIRE.

YES, ZHANG BAO AND GUAN XING HAVE PERFORMED EXCE...ENTLY.

HAHA. LET US ALL DRINK TOWARDS CONTINUED SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY!

YES, SIR.

COME WITH ME. WE WILL GO OUT FOR A SKIRMISH.

WHERE ARE YOU HEADING, GENERAL HUANG ZHONG?

HM?

THIS, I WILL DO BY DELIVERING WU ANOTHER DEFEAT.

EARLIER, HIS MAJESTY MADE A CRACK AT HIS OLDER OFFICERS, BUT I WILL PROVE TO HIM THAT DESPITE MY AGE, I WILL NOT YET BE OUTDONE BY YOUNG UPSTARTS.

HA! MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR A SKIRMISH.

BUT YOU'RE ONLY ACCOMPANIED BY BARELY 10 CAVALRYMEN!


AFTER ME, MEN!


HAHAHA! YOU THINK I CARE FOR THEIR REPUTATION?
THIS IS MADNESS, SIR! THE ENEMIES MAY HAVE SUFFERED A STRING OF DEFEATS LATELY, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN REORGANIZED UNDER A NEW OFFICER STAFF, WHICH INCLUDE GENERALS OF HIGH REPUTATION SUCH AS HAN DANG, ZHOU TAI, PAN ZHANG, AND LING TONG.



COME, MEN!

YES, SIR!

SUPPORT GENERAL HUANG ZHONG! WE CANNOT LET HIM DIE!

YES, SIR!

REPORT TO HIS MAJESTY AS WELL!

WHAT IS IT?

I BRING A REPORT, YOUR MAJESTY.

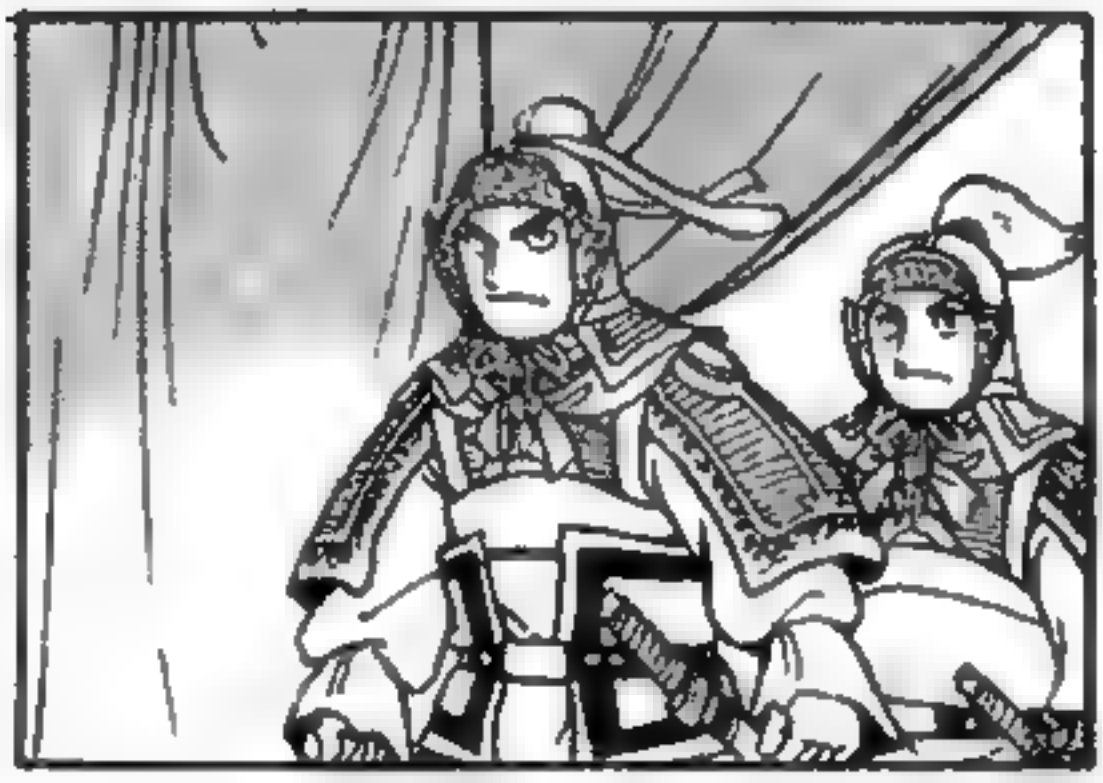
AH, HIS PRIDE IS AS JUST AS UNBUDGING AS EVER.

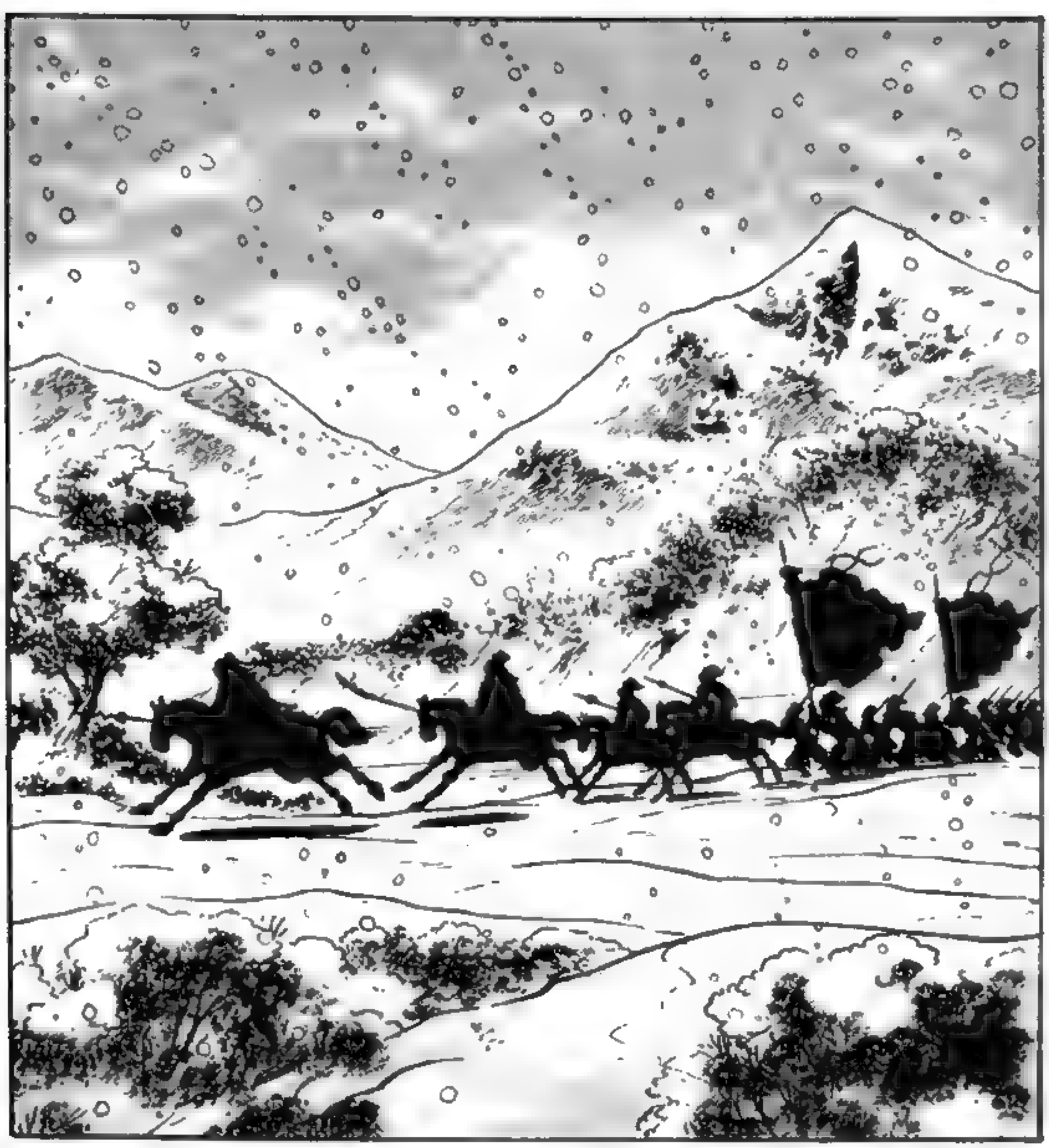
GENERAL HUANG ZHONG JUST RODE OUT FROM CAMP TO ATTACK WU TO PROVE THAT HE WILL NOT YET BE OUTDONE BY ANY YOUNG UPSTARTS.

OF COURSE.

ZHANG BAO, GUAN XING. GO OUT AND SUPPORT HIM. I CANNOT RISK LOSING HUANG ZHONG.







HUANG ZHONG BRAZENLY WALKED INSIDE THE ENEMY CAMPS WITHOUT ROUSING ANY SUSPICION, FOR HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LESS THAN 10 CAVALRYMEN

THAT MUST BE THE VANGUARD LEADER PAN ZHANG'S TENT.

ATTACK!

I HAVE COME WITHOUT AN ARMY TO PUBLICALLY CHALLENGE PAN ZHANG TO SINGLE COMBAT!

I AM HUANG ZHONG, ONE OF THE FIVE TIGER GENERALS OF SHU!

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

IS IT A MUTINY?

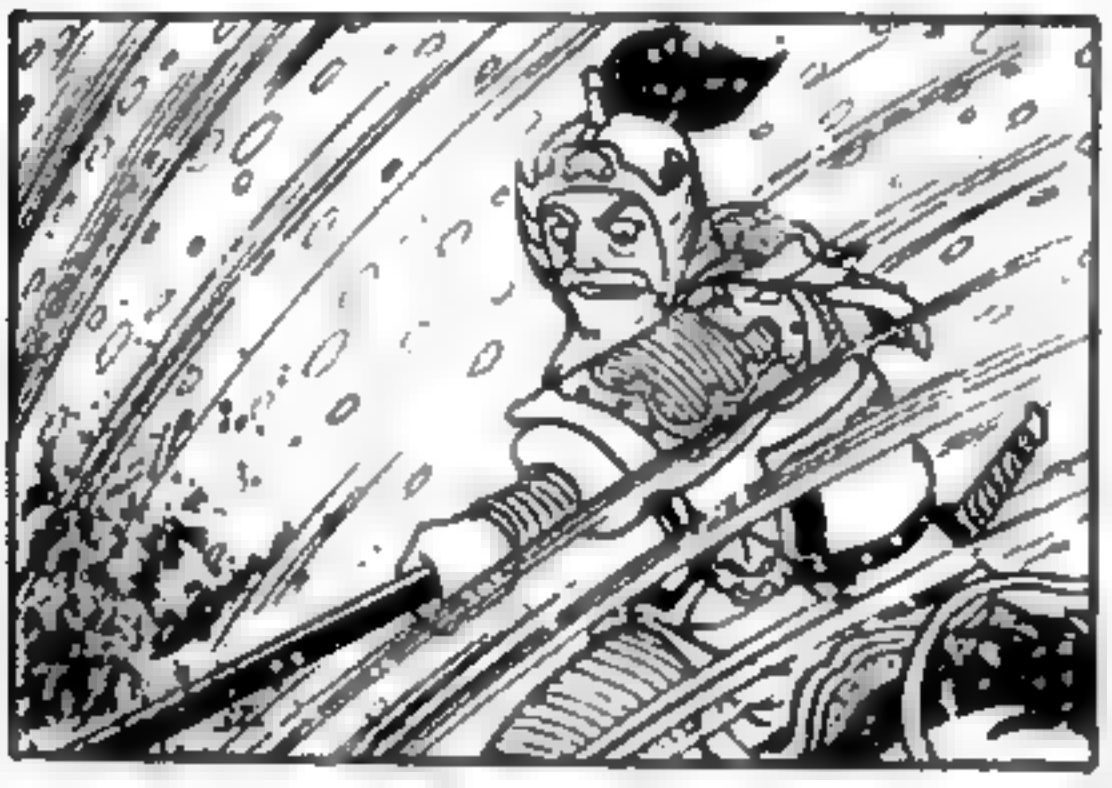
ARREST HIM!

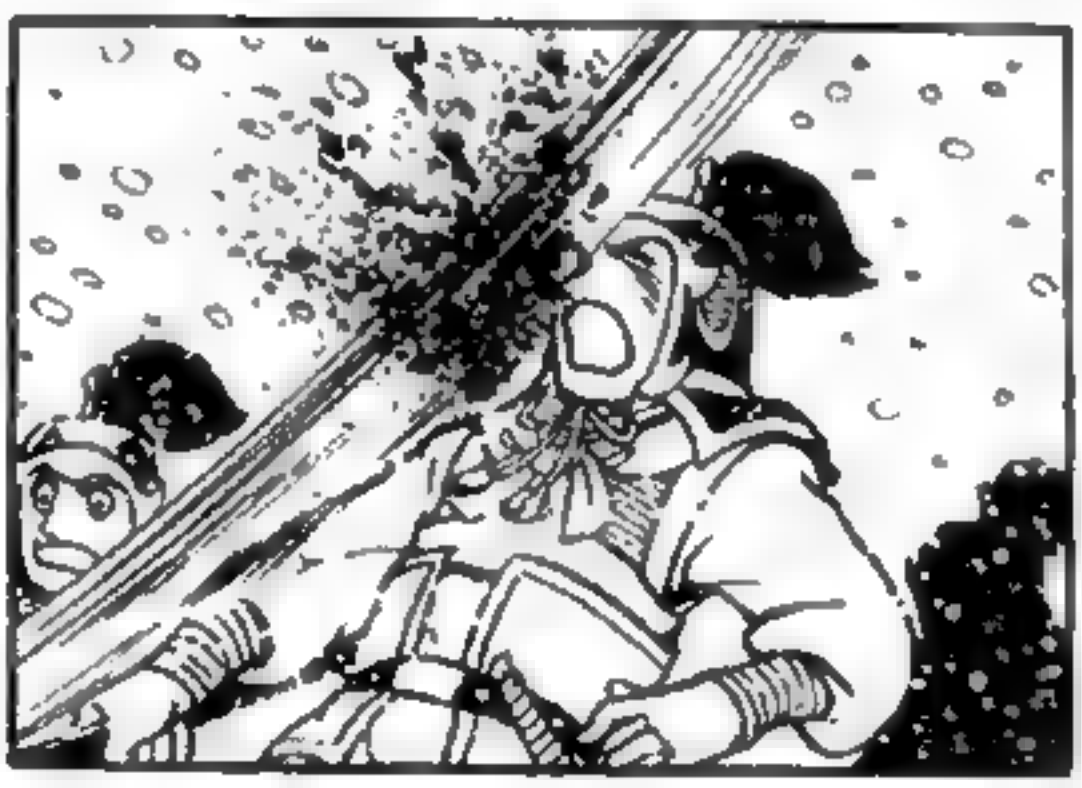
THE SHEER AUDACITY!

HUANG ZHONG!?




HAHA! I MAY BE 75, BUT I AM NOT YET OLD ENOUGH TO BE BESTED BY ANY YOUNGSTERS!







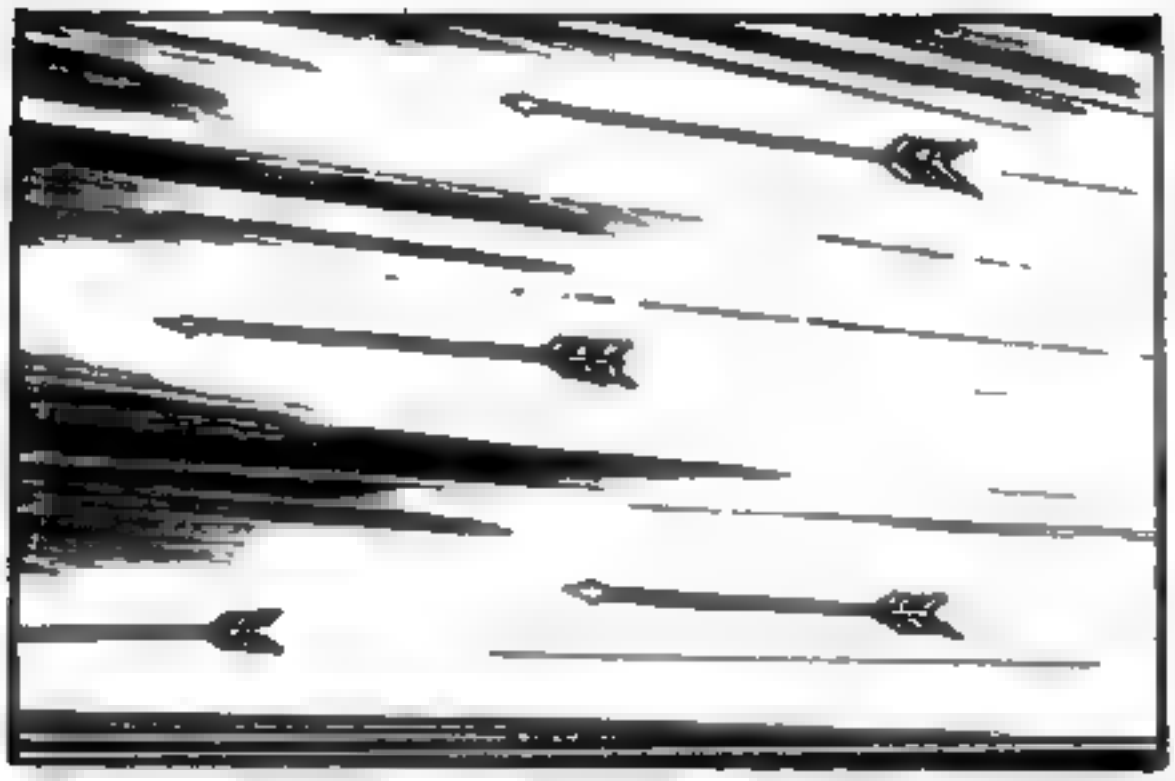
FIGHT ME, PAN ZHANG!

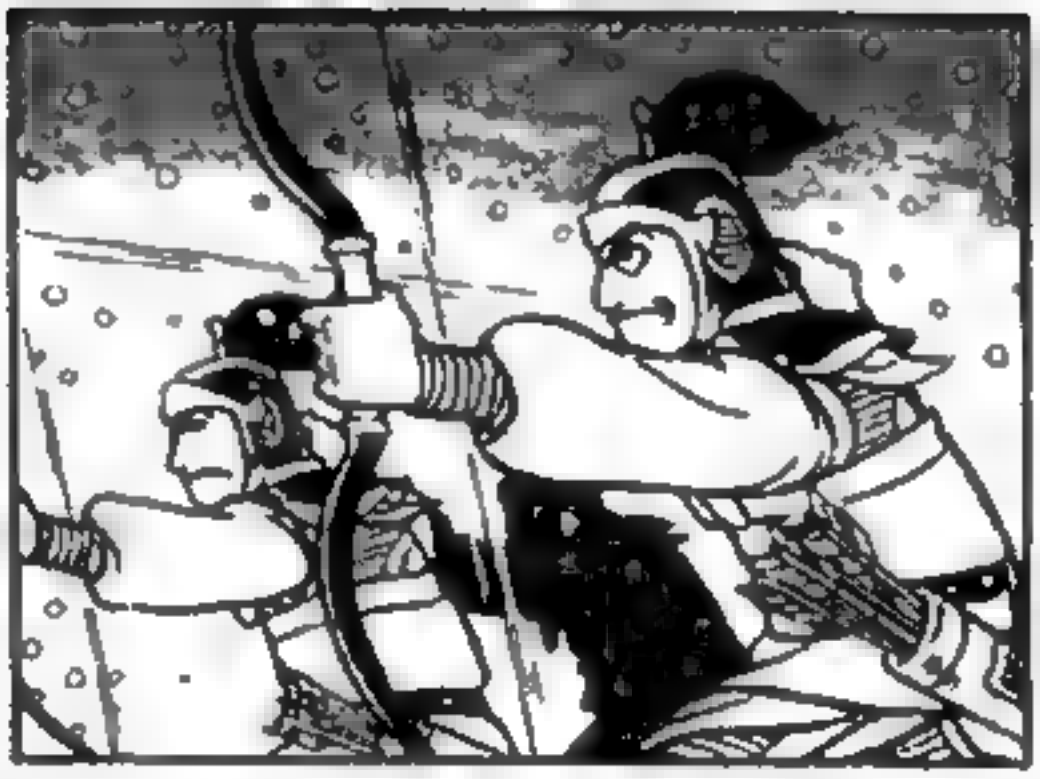
N-NO WONDER HE WAS MADE A TIGER GENERAL AT HIS AGE...

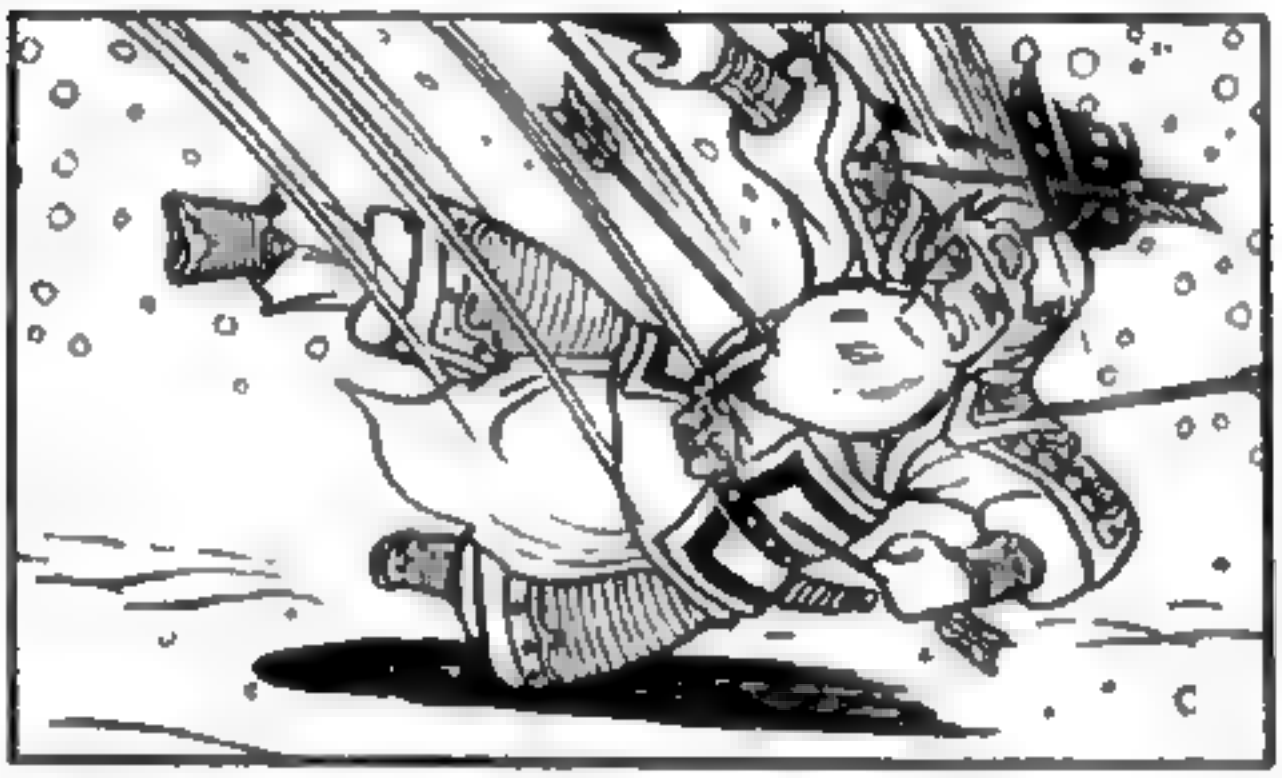
AGHH!

OUR GENERAL IS IN DANGER!

I WON'T LET YOU RUN!








GAH!


ANY WHO WISHES TO ACCOMPANY MY JOURNEY TO DEATH MAY STEP TOWARDS ME.


TAKE HIM ALIVE!






HM?




ZHANG BAO AND GUAN XING HAVE COME AS YOUR SUPPORT!
WHERE IS GENERAL HUANG ZHONG!

MORE ENEMIES?

THANK YOU FOR COMING BUT I AM STAYING UNTIL I TAKE THE ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD.

AH, IF IT ISN'T ZHANG BAO AND GUAN XING.

ELDER GENERAL!

YOU HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED MORE THAN ENOUGH. WE BEG YOU TO RETIRE TO OUR CAMPS FOR THE DAY.

THE WU TROOPS ARE ALREADY RETREATING AND PAN ZHANG IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

PLEASE GET ON MY HORSE, SIR.

I SEE .. VERY WELL, LET US RETIRE TO CAMP.

RETREAT BACK TO CAMP!


劉
劉
劉
劉
HUANG ZHONG WAS GRAVELY INJURED!?
劉
劉
HUANG ZHONG!

IN MY EAGERNESS TO PROVE MY YOUTHFUL VIGOUR, I ACTED TOO CARLESSLY, UNBECOMING OF MY AGE.

NO, NOT AT ALL. I MERELY WISHED TO SERVE YOUR MAJESTY.

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. IF IT WASN'T FOR MY CARELESS REMARK...

TAKE CARE, YOUR MAJESTY...

IN ANY CASE, I CONSIDER IT THE HIGHEST HONOUR IN MY LIFE THAT I SERVED YOUR MAJESTY UNTIL 75 YEARS OF AGE...

劉

HUANG ZHONG!

HUANG ZHONG!


THE FAMED FIVE TIGER GENERALS OF SHU: GUAN YU, ZHANG FEI, ZHAO ZILONG, MA CHAO, AND HUANG ZHONG.
OF THESE 5, THREE HAD NOW DEPARTED.
劉
劉
劉

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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三国志

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横山 光輝

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